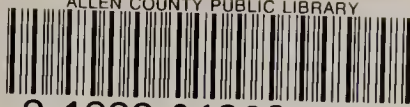


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HISTORY OF THE JOHN WILSON FAMILY
WITH LOCAL SKETCHES

COMPILED BY
MARY WILSON

DES MOINES, IOWA
PURITAN LABORATORIES, INC.
1952

HISTORY OF THE JOHN WILSON FAMILY

WITH LOCAL SKETCHES

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Genealogy

To Nell, who, liking her kin, wished to
preserve their record, and to the younger
generation who have a goodly heritage,
this family history is dedicated.

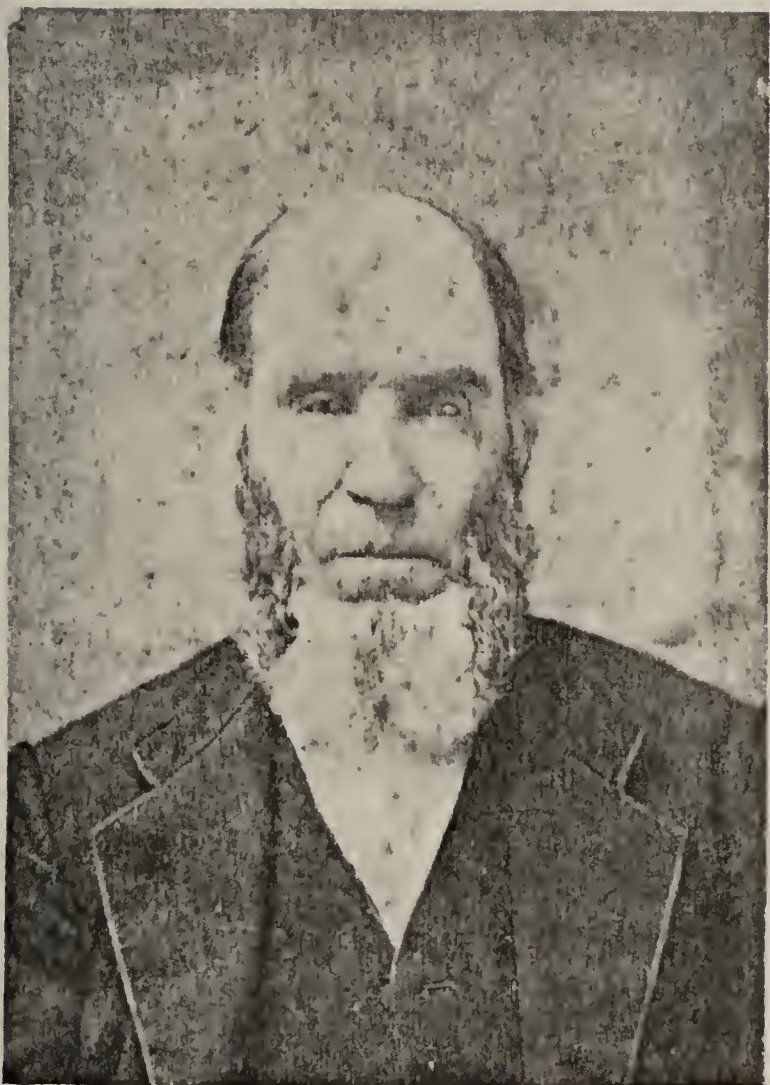
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Were it not for the great kindness of many people, this history could not have been compiled. Many others in the family could have done this work in less time and a great deal better, but unfortunately the urge came to Nell and me and not to those better qualified to do it. We hope that interest in the subject matter will charitably cover up a multitude of literary sins.

We are grateful to Mary Margaret Bidlong McArthur for her work in typing, to Rowena Edwards for proof-reading, and to Eleanor Middleton Currans for the off-set printing.

C O N T E N T S

Foreword by Mary Wilson	7
Father Wilson	9
Our Mother	14
1 James Wilson	18
2 Peter Wilson	39
3 Flora Wilson	51
4 Jean Lusk Wilson Smith	52
5 Janet Wilson Sloss	54
6 John Wilson	56
7 West Wilson	58
8 Andrew Wilson	66
9 Agnes Wilson	68
10 David Wilson	69
11 Margaret Wilson Turnbull	73
12 Elizabeth Wilson Edwards	75
13 Sarah Wilson McWhirter	81
14 Allan Ramsey Wilson	89
Tranquillity Church by Mrs. E. E. Taylor	98
A Tribute by Agness Law	100



J O H N W I L S O N



J E A N M C C O S H W I L S O N

John Wilson married (1st) Jean McCosh, 1834

Children	Born	Died
1 James Wilson	8-16-1835	8-26-1920
2 Peter Wilson	11-22-1836	4-23-1887
3 Flora Wilson	6-18-1838	1-21-1934
4 Jean Lusk Wilson	1-30-1840	7-9-1919
5 Janet Wilson	11-30-1841	1-14-1924
6 John Wilson	6-9-1843	9-5-1886
7 West Wilson	7-6-1845	8-26-1923
8 Andrew Wilson	2-4-1847	1879
9 Agnes Wilson	6-11-1849	1-8-1871
10 David Wilson)	10-4-1851	2-2-1897
) Twins		
11 Margaret Wilson)	10-4-1851	8- -1877
12 Elizabeth Wilson	11-6-1853	10-23-1938
13 Sara Wilson	1-23-1856	7-21-1940
14 Allan Ramsey Wilson	3-1-1858	7-4-1910

John Wilson married (2nd) Martha Stoakes Hopkins, 1882

FOREWORD

When Henry Ward Beecher was asked for what he was most thankful in life, he replied: "Ancestors, ancestors who loved God and did not fear man."

The purpose of this little book is to honor the memory of worthy ancestors who loved God and did not fear man and to aid in preserving the history of Scotch pioneers who contributed so richly to their community life. The idea of an annual Wilson family reunion came into being more than thirty years ago, when some of the cousins decided to meet each year, to visit together and keep alive family traditions.

Ina McWhirter Roberts, Grace Galloway Henderson, Theo Smith Carpenter, and Mrs. Allan Wilson set on foot the first plans which culminated in 1922, in the first reunion of the widely separated family to which they belonged. This reunion was held in Byrnes Park, Waterloo, Iowa. At this time the John and West Wilson branches of the family organized the group with Grace Galloway Henderson as its first president. It was decided at that time to include in the organization all the members of the James and Jane Lusk Wilson family who lived in the United States. This family consisted of:

Jean Wilson Sloss

Mary Wilson Hewitt

Janet Wilson Galt

West Wilson

James Wilson

Sarah Wilson McMillan

Margaret Wilson McDowall

Christine Wilson Dodd

John Wilson

Andrew Wilson

Grace Wilson Wilson

Jean Wilson Sloss, a merchant in Barhill, Scotland; James Wilson, a merchant in Manchester, England; and Mary Wilson Hewitt did not come to the United States.

As our reunions increased in attendance, Grace Galloway Henderson became interested in hunting up family records and decided to write a family history. Any reader who may be inclined to think the getting up of a family history is but a

pleasant pastime for a summer holiday would do well to think twice before beginning the task. A chapter of her experiences in this connection would in itself make an interesting addition to this record. Many of these experiences were helpful and others were equally discouraging. Some were mirth provoking, others provoking without the mirth. However, patience and perseverance were rewarded by a valuable history of the West Wilson branch of the family.

This furnished the inspiration for Nelle Wilson Currens to undertake the task of compiling the records of the John Wilson branch of the family tree, which resulted in this family history.

It seemed justifiable to add sketches of Tranquillity Church to the record since John and Jean McCosh Wilson lived and raised their family of fourteen children in Wolf Creek Valley where this place of worship is located.

The appraisal of our forebears has been written by a member of his or her family or has been taken from the family scrap book containing obituaries. In some cases very little material was available.

Beginning with James Wilson as number one, his children's children unto the fourth generation are recorded and numbered before taking up the Peter Wilson branch of the family as number two. Others follow in numerical order as listed in the contents.

Although Mrs. Currens would not have us refer to the amount of work she has done in obtaining material for this history, it is only fair that friends everywhere should know that she has appreciated their cooperation and interest in her project.

When it became impossible for her to carry on, because of arthritis, her sister Mary Wilson, the writer, undertook to complete and publish the data obtained. If it is not as complete and accurate in every respect as you would like, be assured it is from no lack on the part of your historian to have it so.

In appreciation of our Christian heritage,

- 8 - *Mary Wilson*

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Licensor

Licensee

14

F A T H E R W I L S O N

A tribute by his son James Wilson, as printed
in an 1892 Traer Star-Clipper.

John Wilson has entered into his rest after an eventful life of eighty-one years, that began in Ayrshire, Scotland, on August 16, 1811, and ended in Iowa May 21, 1892. He came to the United States in 1851 with the home-seeking immigrants that were attracted by the mild laws and new lands of the great republic. He was a representative of the Scotch covenanters that had struggled for religious and civic liberty for many generations and held aloof from participation in governmental affairs on account of dissatisfaction with church settlements. When a young man he wanted to come to the United States and was prevented by his mother, who could not endure the thought at that time. Parental influence was very strong among his people. The British farmer felt American competition in grains at that time, that was caused by the repeal of the corn laws to let in cheap breadstuffs for the manufacturing classes. John Wilson's family was growing, rents were harder to scrape together, the landlords were exacting and the western continent was inviting. Its governments of state and nation were attractive to a man who could not conscientiously go to the polls at home, and the ties were sundered that bound him to his native land. It was a sorrowful step to take in many respects, but he believed the people across the Atlantic enjoyed more fully the blessings of civil and religious liberty than the land of his fathers. He was a spiritually minded man, and as the emigrant ship neared the American shores he looked upon them as the Israelites did upon the promised land. He never enjoyed a trip in his life as much as he did the voyage up the Hudson. The old country people hold many religious beliefs that enter into government and cause intense hatreds which, with class distinctions, keep them from knowing each other. The teachers were not on the big boat coming up the Hudson

in 1851; the creeds and class distinctions were left behind, and for the first time in centuries the descendants of the followers of the Prince of Orange and James II were made friends as they sailed into a strange port, and yet to them the friendliest port on earth. He stayed four summers in Connecticut, earning money to buy lands in the West. He was an excellent farmer, perfectly familiar with dairying, meat making, cropping, gardening, and being near the factories, with general demand for farm products he made money fast. His ambition was to own his own acres. Iowa was then being surveyed and put in the market, and in 1854 with his brother, West, and George Sloss he bought farms in Tama county. Financially his coming west so soon was a mistake. The new colony was too far from market, but new homes were wanted. Settlers from most of the countries of Europe and most of the states of the Union wanting homes met on Wolf creek, a tributary of the Cedar, to make homes, to make country and town, to build roads and bridges, to light the fires on family alters and build the neighborhood church, to organize the school district and start the school, to build the school house wherein to hold Sunday school and prayer meeting and hear sermons, where as grand men as the republic leans on worked together in all faith and honor and simplicity to build up the state of Iowa and the kingdom of heaven.

Nobody has truly told the world of the noblest development of the western farmer of early days, and the present sketch confines us to one man. He reared and nurtured a family of seven boys and seven girls to manhood and womanhood. he owned one of the best farms in the state and his early training taught him how to make it productive. He began grain growing and tame grass growing at once. He made cheese and beef and pork and mutton and green grass seed and fed balanced rations thirty years before farm papers discussed these matters in the state. We mention this to tell what he did with the profits of it. He did not loan out

money at big interest, nor add field to field. His ambition did not lie in those directions. He educated his children as far as his means would possibly go. Some were taken in the old farm wagon to Grinnell to college, with hams and cheese and flour and the like, and a little money to keep them. Others were helped through the agricultural college, and still others through commercial and like schools. Father Wilson might have become a very wealthy man if he had been so inclined; had he exacted all the work from his family he could, and devoted all his energies to that end, but his death bed would have spoken differently. The ruling passion would have been casting up interest of thinking of his gold instead of singing the Psalms of David. It is very interesting to inquire into the ability of one man in only comfortable circumstances to help worthy and deserving undertakings during his life. We now and then hear of princely benefactors, but the great undertakings of the world to make men better are paid for by those in moderate circumstances who give as they are able, year by year. It is also interesting to have American institutions strip the formalities from all religions and make prominent all that is of value, the love of God and man. Father Wilson in Scotland drove ten miles past ten churches on Sunday to reach the covenanters' church, but in Iowa he affiliated with Christians of all denominations whose doors were open, and who believed in the essentials of religion. He helped them all, and in early days his house was the home of all pioneer ministers looking after their strayed flocks, worthy or unworthy. The old farm never missed a crop and every crop had its mission of love and mercy. He firmly believed that God had designed the United States to teach the nations lessons of righteousness and self government, and in order to do this the families must call upon His name, the neighborhoods must educate secularly and religiously, the states must govern in justice, and the nation must not forget God.

Tama is a lively type of our best western counties. The settlers from many climes fraternized, Americanized and developed into a model community. The intense religious prejudices and hatreds that make so much contention abroad are vanishing here. The early settlers learned to respect one another; their children went to school together and have intermarried. The result is the western man of today. When the war for the suppression of the rebellion came all were loyal Americans. John Wilson sent his sons to the army as Abraham went to offer up Issac on Mount Moriah. He sent his best boys. He was proud to see his sons in line with the sons of the soil. He prayed for the country all his life. The boys came back from seige and battle and privation and prison pens, but he had that saddest of a father's duty to perform to bury the children who should bury him. Army life had cut their days in the middle, and they went to the patriot's reward before his months were numbered. Those who carped at pensions being paid to the veterans had no sympathy from "Uncle John."

In 1881 the wife of his youth, the mother of his boys and girls, fainted by the way after the young people had grown up. He visited the land of his birth then, intending to reamin some time, but it was not what he left twenty years ago. He soon returned and married an estimable lady who has made his home pleasant and his latter days happy.

Great moral courage is necessary to live such a life. He would not go with a multitude to do evil. He would not give countenance to disrespect to his adopted country or his God. He was a cheerful, happy man during the half of his life spent here, and as he expressed it, "had never a day but to prosper." He brought far along into the nineteenth century the devotion that wrested religious liberty from tyrants in the seventeenth. It is a pity when immigrants bring and

retain habits and opinions that do not dovetail into the best Americanism. The Covenanter and the Puritan, now little understood did much in their day to make our government possible. Their refusal to compromise with wrong in any shape has drawn to them much inconsiderate comment from those who could not understand them. The severe moral and religious training of those men so long necessary to resist oppression, gradually relaxes in our free land of self government and more sunshine gets admission to their lives. Father Wilson was an enthusiastic American because the liberties he enjoyed here were what his family had contended for over two hundred years. We think he became broader during his residence here; but America is leavening nations as well as individuals, and we think he helped to Americanize others in his day. Hail and farewell.

O U R M O T H E R

A tribute by her son, James Wilson, as printed in an
1881 Traer Star-Clipper.

Jean McCosh Wilson was born March 7, 1815, in Ayrshire, Scotland, and died May 6, 1881. She came to the United States 30 years ago, lived four years near Norwich, Connecticut, and for the last 26 years has lived in Tama County, Iowa. Much that may be said of her applies to that grand old fashioned mother who in so many families on the prairies is folding her robes about her and leaning back in the long rest of eternity. We hesitate to speak of family affairs at all, but conclude that what we can say of the center of attraction in our family might be said for many families that have established themselves in the west. She died of heart disease, and little wonder--if we could follow the anxieties of her days--that her poor heart should, at the full completion of her well rounded life, faint and fail. It must have throbbed, when, with our father and nine children, all under sixteen years, she turned her face toward the country of hope, away beyond the Atlantic and left the traditions, history, and scenes of her former life, her relatives, friends and the church of God, to establish all again among strangers. It is true, since that momentous step, her family has never seen a day, but to do well. There are no people under the sun so kind to strangers as the Americans, but the stranger emigrant comes to make what impression he may, meanwhile the women of his family especially in the then new west, experienced much solitude. She reared to manhood seven boys, and to womanhood seven girls. Six sons and five daughters are living. Through all the troubles of childhood and youth, through bodily ills that only a mother could soothe, and mental distress that only a mother could understand; with patience and hope and courage she nursed her charge. Like Jesus she was the advocate with the Father. Let the offense be what it might she

sought ameliorating circumstances, let the shortcoming be reprehensible however, she stood by the delinquent. Mature manhood is required to appreciate a good mother.

When boys, changing to manhood were wise above what is written, affection for her kept them in her orbits, when law and testimony might have failed. While her life has been a happy one as a whole, no thorns in her pillow at its close, there were many cloudy days and sometimes years, particularly when the boys were away in the army, that left lines of care on her comely forehead. For four years she watched the fortunes of the 14th Iowa infantry where Peter was, and for a long time the 1st Iowa cavalry where John was. The history of the rebellion does not contain all that occurred during that period. The home sufferings and sacrifices, the heart aches, the hopes deferred, the agony while waiting for definite reports from battles, the distress when boys were in hospital or prison, are only written in God's book of life.

It was her fortune to get her boys back from hospital, battle field and prison pen, but the anxieties of the period shortened her days, as it did those of many another noble mother.

The Wilson household always had a place for God's ministers, and much of its revenues went yearly to help establish our grand neighborhood position religiously, to pay stipends, build churches and help good morals take root on the prairies. If our family develops a miser, he must forget the liberality of home; if a renegade, the morning prayer and evening psalm will have vanished from his memory.

The old home was always an attractive place for the family to visit and to a great degree on mother's account. Her general information was extensive. She was

at home in discussing theology, governmental policy, social science, or farm economy, and possessed of the keenest perception of any woman we ever met. Those who think the rearing of a large family on a farm is incompatible with mental development make a great mistake. Our observation teaches us that women can not well otherwise be great: family responsibilities develop the noblest attributes in woman; what we have seen of women in private induces us to favor her legal equality, and what we have seen of her in public rather draws us away, but the home lessons are the strongest.

The present position of our state has only been secured through the remarkable qualities of self denial of a generation that are passing away. Our churches and schools, our groves and our orchards, our teeming fields, and green pastures, our milder manners and growing morals, are their work. They labored for us. Let us tenderly remember as their step shortens, and vision fails; let no duty to ourselves prevent active sympathy with them.

The old home farm has always been productive. Tame grasses and good crops, and fine beeves and good milkers were found there as soon as anywhere in the country. Iowa would need 20,000 miles of railroad were every farm as productive; and had father and mother coveted wealth they could have possessed it in great abundance; but since the first boy needed help to start a farm, and the first girl needed assistance to get an education, the revenues of the blessed old acres have been devoted to them, till the boys were all fairly on their feet, and the girls through college, when they so elected. These were the days when mothers made childrens' clothes before sewing machines were common, and made cheese and butter to buy the material.

This world is not our dwelling place. At the end of life wasted or sanctified

when opportunity has passed and life's labor is over, our sun sets in darkness or glory, and we belong to the past and hereafter. That strong faith that enabled mother to live the life of the righteous, made her latter end like His. Her step became slower in late years, but other feet were ready to save her; her vigor failed like the slow ebbing of the tide on a calm summer's evening; the good she had hoped for Zion in Iowa was fully realized; the prosperity she had worked for regarding her family was fairly attained; her last days gathered children and friends all around her, and when nature was clothing the fields in spring beauty, and the woods and hedges were hanging out their tassels, when the sunshine had brought the songsters from the south, and the bow of promise spanned the early summer cloud, the angel brought her invitation.

James Wilson married Esther Wilbur about 1863.

	Children	Born	Died
15	John Ward Wilson	9-17-1865	4-21-1932
16	Peter McCosh Wilson	10-1-1867	1932
17	Flora Hanna Wilson	5-27-1869	
18	James Wilbur Wilson	2-12-1871	
19	Jasper Abijah Wilson	10-29-1874	3-19-1949
20	George Wright Wilson	7-12-1876	12-5-1939
21	Esther May Wilson	5-31-1879	1885

TRIBUTE TO JAMES WILSON

Written by E. E. Taylor, deceased,
Former Editor of the Traer Star-Clipper--1920

Flags were flying at half mast in Washington, D. C., Saturday in honor of James Wilson, a national figure taken by death, while in Traer, our people paid tribute to the memory of "Tama Jim," our beloved citizen, at a simple funeral service at the United Presbyterian church. The church was crowded to capacity by his friends from near and far. The service was in charge of Rev. James Wray, pastor of Tranquillity Presbyterian church, of which Mr. Wilson was a member for many years. He was assisted by Dr. C. H. Purmort, Waterloo.

* * * * *

Rev. Wray, who preached the sermon, took his text from the 25th verse of the first chapter of Deuteronomy, "It is a good land which the Lord our God doth give us." He laid special emphasis on the Christian life of Mr. Wilson and his life as a churchman, rather than his notable public career. Dr. Purmort, who followed him, also spoke of the Christian character of Mr. Wilson. He said the Presbyterian

church remembers him as the first lay moderator of that denomination in Iowa, more than twenty-eight years ago. He told of the friendship of Mr. Wilson and the late Henry Wallace, of Des Moines, likening their friendship to that of David and Jonathan. The service was religious and plain, just as "Tama Jim" would have wished.

The front of the church auditorium was almost a solid wall of flowers.

* * * * *

James Wilson was born on a farm in Ayrshire, Scotland, August 16, 1835. He was the son of John and Jean Wilson. His father was a thrifty and intelligent producer of livestock, butter and milk. Believing himself fitted for larger opportunities he brought his family to America in 1852, settling first in Connecticut. The family moved to Perry township, Tama county, in 1855, having saved money during the four years' stay in Connecticut sufficient to enter 240 acres of land, build and purchase some stock with which to commence farming. James first worked for his uncle, West Wilson, in summer and attended school in winter. He hired to Stephen Klingaman to run his saw mill and sawed logs to build many of the houses and fences of north Tama in the two succeeding years. He also worked on a farm for Elijah Guernsey, of Geneseo, during the summer of 1860.

Mr. Wilson in the days of his youth, as well as throughout his later life, was a great student. The late G. Jaqua, who knew "Tama Jim" from the time he arrived in north Tama in 1855, once wrote of him in the Star-Clipper: "He loved to read, and few books or periodicals passed within his reach but what he eagerly devoured. Jim's employer was postmaster of the new settlement on Wolf creek, and it is said that no paper or periodical ever lay in that office three days without his knowing all that was in it. He had a most capacious mind for knowledge. Once he went to school to us for a few months, and what a student he was. When he got seated for

These members are the first to have been elected to the
this year's term. The first of the members is Mr. John
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study so intent was he on his lesson that had an earthquake come he would not have known it. After that winter he went to Iowa college a year or two and then graduated between the plow handles. At this time he could turn an eighty rod furrow as straight as a line, could repeat at least half of Burns' poems or could make a speech on the political issues of the day that would do credit to those of mature age."

When the Civil War began Mr. Wilson and his brother Peter had started farming on their own account. They had become of age--men of maturity, and recognized the claims of the government upon them for service. They formed a co-partnership to exist during the war, a common arrangement among brothers at that time. One would enlist and the other would remain to look after home affairs. When the war would end an equal division would be made. This arrangement was carried out. Peter, being the stronger, enlisted, first serving as private, then corporal, then sergeant. The two owned eighty acres of land between them. When they divided, a year after the war closed, there was a half section of land, and all the hogs, cattle and horses it would maintain, to divide. While Mr. Wilson was adding to the three eighties and the stock he was attracting the attention of his townsmen, and one day, in September, 1864, at the home of Daniel Connell, the plan was formed to make Mr. Wilson a member of the board of supervisors, and it was successful. He was elected in October, serving the term of 1865-6. The way having been opened, the farmers of Tama county sent him to the legislature to obtain legislation to require people to take care of their stock so that poor men could farm without fences. Previous to that the policy had been to fence the crops and let the cattle run, as farms were few, little land under cultivation and pasture range extensive. When this order changed there was not native timber

enough to fence the prairies, and barbed wire had not been invented. It was much less expensive to fence the few cattle than all the prairies. Joseph Dysart was senator, and the two Tama county men worked together and secured a law that permitted counties at their option to fence cattle in or out. Mr. Wilson was placed on the railroad committee. The grant of land of 1856 to the Iowa railroads had lapsed to the government because it had not been earned. Congress then regranted it to the state to dispose of as it seemed best. The peculiar position occupied by the transportation situation at that time was that the railroads denied the right of the state to interfere at all with freight and passenger rates. The railroad committee of seventeen members, upon which Mr. Wilson was placed, was evidently constructed with care. Mr. Wilson suggested it was the proper time to settle the question whether or not the state could control rates by reserving the right to regulate if the lands were a donation. Not one other member of the committee would agree to consider the proposition, so he brought it before the house in a minority report. The fight over the question was animated and earnest. The house sustained Mr. Wilson and passed the bill, reserving to the state the right to regulate rates, though the committee was solid against him. One after another the railroads had their lands regranted, but Mr. Wilson insisted that all should become subject to the state in regard to charges. It was the first legislative battle between the corporations and the people that was won by the latter.

Mr. Wilson was returned to the Thirteenth general assembly and also the Fourteenth. At the opening of the Fourteenth he was unanimously elected speaker of the house. He was elected to the Forty-third and Forty-fourth congresses and took an active part in securing legislation to jetty the mouth of the Mississippi river that resulted in materially reducing the cost of transportation of Iowa

products eastward. The regulation of interstate commerce was first attempted in the Forty-third congress. Mr. Wilson saw with surprise when he first went to congress that very few of the members understood the rules. He devoted much of his time during his first term in mastering the code by which the business of the house was conducted. He was soon recognized as an authority and when Mr. Blaine was elected to the senate during Mr. Wilson's second term the latter was placed in Blaine's place on the house committee on rules.

At the expiration of his term of service Mr. Wilson returned to his farm near Traer, where his family had continued to reside. He was appointed a member of the state railroad commission by Governor Sherman in 1882, and served eleven months in that capacity. Many important conclusions were reached during that period.

The Republican convention that had met to nominate a candidate for congress from the Fifth district in 1882, after balloting a long time for various candidates, tendered the nomination to Mr. Wilson. Tama Jim wanted to secure an act to protect the herds of the country from a cattle plague that few recognized as dangerous as he did. He was elected, and succeeded in getting a law to detect, quarantine, and disinfect, which was as far as congress would go toward pleuro-pneumonia legislation. Mr. Wilson rallied every Republican in the house but two to his support, and enough Democrats were secured to pass it.

* * * * *

Mr. Wilson enjoyed the distinction of being the first farmer to go to congress from Iowa.

After his service in congress Mr. Wilson took up agricultural writing. He had

been half owner and editor of the Traer Clipper for several years and put the paper on its feet. He edited the farm department of the Des Moines Register for a few years. After E. E. Taylor, publisher of the Star, had bought the Clipper and consolidated the two, Mr. Wilson and he formed a syndicate of Iowa papers to which Mr. Wilson as writer and Mr. Taylor as manager were to furnish three columns of farm matter weekly in plates. At one time nearly fifty Iowa papers used this service. It continued a part of Mr. Wilson's work for several years, until he was called to Ames.

In the meantime he had become a regent of the Iowa State University, and in 1891 he was elected to the Chair of Practical Agriculture in the Iowa State College of Agriculture at Ames and Director of the State Experiment station. He then became the greatest instrumentality for building up agricultural pursuits that Iowa ever had. He spread information on feeding, breeding, cropping, marketing, butter and cheese making, gardening and good living.

It was in February, 1897, that he received word of his appointment by President McKinley to the cabinet portfolio of Secretary of Agriculture, taking up the duties of the office in March. The Star-Clipper of February 5, 1897, explains how the appointment came to "Tama Jim." "While the selection of 'Tama Jim' is to some extent due to the recommendation of Senator Allison, Mr. McKinley was fully aware of his ability from an acquaintance of several years which the two gentlemen spent together in politics. Their friendship was warm. Mr. McKinley recognized in Mr. Wilson not only an agreeable gentleman and a staunch Republican, but a typical and worthy representative of the great agricultural state of Iowa, a deep student of public affairs and a man of honor and integrity. He had heard of him after he left congress, of his work on the railroad commission and his remarkable success in elevating the standard of the college at Ames. So, when Mr. Allison refused

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to leave the senate for the cabinet and suggested Mr. Wilson instead, Mr. McKinley readily fell in with the situation, and from that moment the appointment was practically settled. The honor is doubly great from the fact that it came wholly unsolicited and unexpected on the part of Mr. Wilson. He did not seek it. He did not write a letter or approach a politician on the subject. It is simply a recognition of Mr. Wilson's eminent fitness for the office.

When Mr. Wilson took office the agricultural development of the country was already remarkable, but in the years during which he was at the helm of its interests, so far as the federal government was concerned, this development was increased far beyond the boundaries of natural promise which mere land and work afforded. The increasing helpfulness which the federal government exercised in this development is indicated to some extent by the fact that when Mr. Wilson became Secretary there were 2,444 employees in the department, and that when he left it there were approximately 12,000. Mr. Wilson obtained on the merits of one achievement after another, until it became a universal belief among the farmers that the department of agriculture was working with a single minded purpose for their benefit.

In the management of the Department of Agriculture he began with two cardinal rules--to find the best markets for the products of the farm and to induce and teach the farmers to raise the very best examples of the articles that the markets wanted.

Secretary Wilson introduced into the United States a great number of valuable crops which hitherto had been successful only in foreign countries. Among these was Durum wheat, which came to yield nearly \$50,000,000 a year to the farmers of the northwest. He thus extended the possibilities of wheat growing far beyond

the former climatic limits. Under his administration the beet sugar industry was also fostered, a serum for hog cholera was discovered, the whole country was aroused on the subject of tuberculosis in cattle, and the care and handling of milk was systematized and improved. Sample sections of good roads were built in almost every state, and communities were instructed how to build good roads with their local material. The forests were studied and remarkable advances made toward the conservation of them, and the replanting of the deforested areas. In connection with the Department's active work, the official agricultural literature was developed to the end that departmental bulletins became of great value among the farmers, presented as they were in simple language along practical lines.

The activities of the Agricultural Department were extended and multiplied from year to year by Secretary Wilson. He was re-appointed by President Roosevelt and in 1909 was re-appointed by President Taft, serving through four administrations.

At the close of his twelfth year in the cabinet the activities of the Department of Agriculture extended into the following: Agricultural science, plant and animal breeding, farm management, soils, vegetable production, insect pests, useful birds, marketing, animal industry, crop reporting, agricultural chemistry, pure food and drugs, road improvement, weather service, forestry, reclamation, agricultural education and extension, the gathering of agricultural statistics, encouragement of farmers' co-operative organizations and many other subjects. He was instrumental in obtaining the passage of the Food and Drug Act adopted in 1906, and the law for government inspection of packing houses.

He was especially active in seeking new plants for this country and in plant improvement. He is credited with re-establishing the Morgan breed of horses,

obtaining a crop of 60,000,000 bushels of African durum wheat, the introduction of new varieties of rice for the south, the introduction of new varieties of alfalfa from Arabia, Sahara, Chili, Turkestan, and Peru, as well as new fruits and vegetables.

He saw the agricultural balance of trade increase from \$234,000,000 to \$425,000,000.

He has trained experts scouring the world for new seeds, plants, animals and pest destroying insects. The subject of pure food had from time to time aroused considerable attention, and had been the subject of study of the Division of Chemistry since 1881.

The necessity for regulating the traffic in foods and establishing a standard of purity became more and more apparent during Mr. Wilson's administration, and the matter was finally disposed of when congress passed the drastic Food and Drug Act of June 30, 1906.

Under the provisions, no adulterated or misbranded foods are allowed to be imported or introduced in interstate commerce, and standards of purity are fixed for all kinds of animal, vegetable and manufactured foods. Heavy penalties are provided for its violation, and its enforcement has a most salutary effect in protecting consumers throughout the United States. The law is under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture, who, in conjunction with the Secretaries of the Treasury and Commerce and Labor shall make uniform rules.

In short, he was wonderfully successful in the expansion and administration of the most useful public department in the world.

Mr. Wilson was head of the Department of Agriculture for sixteen years. His

long service in the Cabinet constituted a record. Albert Gallatin, once Secretary of the Treasury, had previously held the record with service of nearly thirteen years. Mr. Wilson's service, however, was notable for the constructive work which it included, rather than for the remarkably long time which he held the portfolio, with complete acceptability under three presidents -- McKinley, Roosevelt and Taft.

Mr. Wilson retired from office on the 4th of March, 1913, when Woodrow Wilson replaced Mr. Taft as President. On March 6th, on the eve of his departure from Washington, 2,500 employees of the Department of Agriculture tendered 'Tama Jim' a great reception. For two hours he stood in the National Museum and received the good wishes of his employees, many of whom had worked under him throughout the sixteen years. In the presence of Secretary of State Bryan and Secretary of Agriculture Houston they presented him with a life size bronze bust of himself, a replica of which was placed in the department. The Iowa delegation in congress and other dignitaries were present. The bronze bust is now the property of Traer and is in our public library.

* * * * *

In June he accepted the appointment of Governor Clark to be on a commission from Iowa to go to Europe to study agricultural conditions of interest and profit to the Iowa farmer. He was accompanied by Henry Wallace, of Wallace's Farmer, his life long friend, and one or two others. They spent most of the time in the British Isles, and Mr. Wilson visited his native land, Scotland, for the first time. He was abroad about two months.

"Tama Jim" was active in public service until the last two years of his life when health and strength failed. He was president of the National Agricultural Society, which publishes a magazine to which he was a regular contributor. He

made frequent trips to New York on business connected with this periodical.

During his cabinet service and later he was honored by several colleges and universities by being awarded the honorary degree of L. L. D. Among the schools to honor him were the University of Wisconsin, University of Missouri, Cornell college and McGill University. In all he received L. L. D.s from eighteen American universities. He also was given L. L. D. by the University of Edinburgh. Andrew Carnegie, Rufus Choate, and Mr. Wilson are the only Americans thus recognized by the Edinburgh University. Two humorists, Mark Twain and the actor, Joe Jefferson, were intimate friends of Mr. Wilson.

* * * * *

Tama Jim was an able platform speaker and was continually in demand for addresses. He addressed conventions of associations of various kinds and stumped the country for Republican candidates during presidential and state campaigns. He was shrewd in politics. He could travel over Iowa and forecast the election results the most accurately of any man we ever knew. For thirty years it was his lot to close the campaign by a speech in Traer the night before election. In this practice honors were bestowed on both sides. He felt honored by being invited to speak, his friends felt honored in being able to hear him. He deeply appreciated the courtesy.

* * * * *

Throughout all his busy public career, Tama Jim never lost interest in affairs at home. He loved his home community. He was always associated with many Traer activities. He held membership in the Tranquillity church and was a faithful attendant when home.

15 John Ward Wilson married Anna Stevenson 9-14-1905

	Children	Born	Died
22	Esther Stevenson Wilson	9-12-1907	
23	John Ward Wilson	5-8-1910	
24	Leigh Wilson	6-2-1912	
25	James Allan Wilson	9-8-1919	

Ward Wilson eldest son of James Wilson, was educated in the rural schools of Tama county, Tilford Academy at Vinton, and was a graduate from Iowa State College with the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. He was the president of his class. Following his graduation, he practiced his profession in his community. At one time he had a well equipped blacksmith shop where he repaired farm machinery.

In later years he acquired and maintained a herd of purebred Short Horn cattle and also kept Clydesdale horses under the firm name of James Wilson and Sons.

Ward was for two terms a member of the Iowa state legislature where he was instrumental in having passed much legislation beneficial to the producer. He was a member of Tranquillity church and a trustee of the church at the time of his death.

He was a Mason -- K. T. Shriner.

22 Esther S. Wilson married George Stary 9-2-1947

	Children	Born	Died
26	Steven Ray Stary	3-18-1950	3-19-1950
27	Cynthia Ann Stary	1-10-1951	

Esther Wilson graduated from Traer High School and from the Iowa State University Training School for Nurses at Iowa City, Iowa. She had post graduate training at the Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, Illinois. Esther was a staff nurse at Western Reserve University Hospital at Cleveland, Ohio, and later held a supervisory and teaching position on the staff at Allen Memorial Hospital in Waterloo, Iowa.

She is at present living on a farm near Elberon, Iowa.

23 John W. Wilson, Jr. graduated from Traer High School and on August 4, 1942 enlisted in World Ware II taking special service training at San Lewis Obispo, California. He was sent to the South Pacific and was in service in New Guinea, New Britain, Australia, Leyte and Palamon, Philippine Islands. He was discharged on the point system from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas on December 6, 1945.

John is a farmer and a man of many skills. He is a Mason;-- a district lecturer.

24 Leigh Wilson graduated from Traer High School. He was prominent in athletics during his school years. He is a farmer and cattle feeder. Leigh is an intelligent reader and is interested in, and well informed, on current topics.

25 Allan Wilson graduated from Traer High School. He is a farmer. Allen is an understanding reader and has a yen for politics. His hobby is growing choice iris.

16 Peter McCosh Wilson second son of James Wilson, graduated from Traer High School in 1887 and from Iowa State College in 1892 with the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. He was an honor student. His obituary in the Traer Star-Clipper carried the following tribute:

"Peter was an ardent reader, a deep thinker, and his philosophy was respected by those with whom he associated.

'Pete' made his home with his brother Ward and family. He was a champion checker player."

17 Flora H. Wilson daughter of James Wilson, requested omission of sketch.

Her home is in Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, D. C.

18 James Wilbur Wilson married Elsie Chappel 4-18-1906

	Children	Born	Died
28	James Wilson, Jr.	8-8-1908	
29	Robert Vincent Wilson	4-23-1911	9-5-1938
30	Thomas Chappel Wilson	7-1-1914	

James Wilbur Wilson third son of James Wilson, received his early education in the Tama county schools. He has degrees of Bachelor of Agriculture and Master of Scientific Agriculture from Iowa State College. In 1922 the degree of L. L. D. was conferred upon him by the University of South Dakota, for proving his worth as an administrator and for his activity in the upbuilding of South Dakota Agricultural College.

In his college days he was interested in athletics and was a member of the famous "Cyclone" football team that defeated North-

western University in 1895.

After graduating from college in 1896, he was retained as an assistant in the Department of Agriculture, until his father, then Secretary of Agriculture in President McKinley's cabinet, requested that he come to Washington, D. C., to act as his private secretary. He remained in this position for three years and pursued a law course in the evenings at George Washington University.

In 1902 James (Will) was elected to the position of Director of the Experiment Station and Professor of Animal Husbandry at the South Dakota Agricultural College at Brookings, which position he held until 1937, when he was retired as Director Emeritus.

He was honored by being asked to serve as a member of the International Jury of Awards at the St. Louis Exposition in 1904. He served as a member of Pres. Harding's Agricultural Conference in 1922. In 1914 he was made a member of the Phi-Kappa Phi and was elected a Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Prof. Wilson is the author and co-author of many bulletins on stock breeding and feeding. Perhaps his outstanding research project has been in originating and producing the only breed of tailless sheep in this country. This experiment is still in

progress and its results have attracted world wide attention. Prof. Wilson is often a host to visiting scientists and stockmen who are interested in his work.

He takes an active part in Knights Templar and the Shrine. He continues to have an enthusiastic interest in all forms of athletics.



Notail sheep

A span of years beyond the Psalmist's allotted three score years and ten brings added satisfaction. "Will" has received his Iowa State College fifty five year medal, his Masonic and Shrine fifty year certificate and has recently been honored by the faculty and Animal Husbandry Department of South Dakota State College. He was presented with a gold plate which says "J. W. Wilson, in recognition of 50 years service to A. H. Dept. S. D. S. C. from A. H. Dept., 1952."

Prof. Wilson lives with his wife on their farm near Brookings, South Dakota.

28 James Wilson, Jr., married Mildred Mellencamp 12-29-1939

Children	Born	Died
31 Nancy Wilson	1-8-1941	
32 James Wilson IV	8-12-1944	
33 Thomas Allan Wilson	5-24-1949	

James Wilson, Jr., graduated from Brookings, S. D. High School. He was a student of law for three years at the U. of South Dakota and is a graduate from the South Dakota State College. He was an honor student in chemistry and has ability as an extemporaneous speaker.

James has an administrative position with General Electric Co. and lives at Pittsfield, Mass.

29 Robert Vincent Wilson graduated from High School and the South Dakota State College at Brookings. He was prominent in athletics, football, basketball, and swimming, and represented South Dakota at a Chicago track meet in the high hurdles. He won many medals. Bob was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He held a position of responsibility in Chicago when he met his untimely death in an automobile accident.

30 Thomas Chappel Wilson married Sally Bender 7-26-1942

Children	Born	Died
34 Pamella Jane Wilson	3-11-1944	
35 Bonnie Jean Wilson	5-24-1949	

Thomas Chappel Wilson graduated from Brookings, South Dakota High School and from the University of South Dakota, majoring in Business Administration.

He is president of the Wilson Construction Co., of Lynwood, Calif.

19 Jasper Abijah Wilson married Martha Gehl 11-20-1915

	Children	Born	Died
36	Janet Wilson	6-2-1917	
37	Gehl Edward Wilson	9-24-1918	
38	Russell Peter Wilson	2-2-1920	
39	Jean Marguerite Wilson	11-23-1924	

Jasper A. Wilson fourth son of James Wilson, graduated from Iowa State College at Ames. He acted as Secretary to his father, James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture in Washington D. C., for ten years. This gave him an opportunity to travel, and to meet many of the great and near great men of our time. Upon his return to Iowa "Jap" married and farmed his own acres until rheumatoid arthritis compelled him to retire from active work. He lived in Traer the last years of his life.

36 Janet Wilson married Albert L. Lehninger 3-12-1942

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	Children	Born	Died
40	James Scot Wilson Lehninger	12-26-1945	
41	Erika Jan Lehninger	6-16-1947	

Janet Wilson graduated from Traer High School and attended Iowa State College and the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Janet had special training on the violin and has done some orchestral work.

She, with her husband and family, has spent the school year of 1951-52 in Europe, where her husband, a research chemist on leave from Chicago University, has been lecturing. Upon their return to this country they will live in Baltimore, Md., where Prof. Lehninger heads the Research Dept. of John Hopkins University.

37 Gehl E. Wilson married Maxine Beatty 12-25-1941

	Children	Born	Died
42	Barbara Jean Wilson	10-31-1942	
43	James Russell Wilson	11-15-1946	
44	John Thomas Wilson	4-4-1948	
45	Larry Gehl Wilson	5-5-1951	

Gehl Wilson graduated from Traer High School and saw service during World War II as a member of an agency of the F. B. I. operating in this country. He lives on his mother's farm, near Dysart, Iowa.

38 Russell P. Wilson married Lucille M. Brueger 11-30-1946

	Children	Born	Died
46	Diane Kay Wilson	6-1-1948	
47	Dennis John Wilson	8-8-1950	

Russell Wilson graduated from Traer High School. World War II Record:

Entered Army, Feb. 5, 1942, A. A. F.; Training in U. S., Tulsa, Okla. and Ypsalanti, Mich.; Left for overseas, Newport News, Va., Mar. 17, 1944. Arrived in Europe Apr. 1, 1944. Assigned 484th Bomb. Grp., 827th Bomb. Sqdn.; Engagements, Rome-Arno, N. Appennines, Po Valley, South France, North France, Rhineland, Air Combat Balkans; Medals and Ribbons, Bronze Star, Distinguished Unit Badge with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, EAME Ribbon with 7 Bronze Battle Stars; Returned to U. S., Casablanca, arrived U. S. Oct. 31, 1945; Discharged at Lincoln, Nebr., Nov. 17, 1945 with rating of Master Sgt.; Months in service, in U. S. 26 and overseas, 18.

Present occupation is farming near Dysart, Iowa.

39 Jean M. Wilson married Walter Clinnin, Jr. 2-4-1950

	Children	Born	Died
48	David Farrell Clinnin	1-16-1951	
49	John Walter Clinnin	1-27-1952	

Jean Wilson is a graduate of the West Waterloo, Iowa, High School and of the State University of Iowa with a B. A. degree. She was employed in Chicago until her marriage. Her husband, a bomber pilot in the Korean war, was reported "Missing in Action" in 1952. Jean with her two sons lives in California.

20 George Wright Wilson married Nellie Stevenson 6-9-1909

	Children	Born	Died
50	James Robert Wilson	7-4-1912	
51	Ruth Wilson	4-20-1916	

Wright Wilson fifth son of James Wilson, was educated in the rural schools and attended Iowa State College at Ames, Iowa. Though of a quiet and retiring disposition, he could on occasion give a creditable performance on his violin "by ear", never having had any formal training. He was a mimic of no mean ability. Wright was a kind father and a man of generous impulse. The loss of his wife in early manhood was a blow from which he did not easily recover. Wright died suddenly from a heart ailment.

50 James R. Wilson married Beatrice Redmond 1938

"Jim" attended Traer High School and farmed with his father until the latter's death. When the estate was settled the farm was sold and Jim moved to Waterloo. He is employed by the John Deere Co.

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51 Ruth Wilson married Lloyd Lauster 10-24-1939

	Children	Born	Died
52	Sandra Kay Lauster	7-7-1941	
53	Loy Ann Lauster	9-15-1946	

Ruth graduated from Traer High School and from the South Dakota State College at Brookings, South Dakota. Her home is in Big Stone City, South Dakota.

PETER WILSON

2 Peter Wilson married (1st) Elizabeth Lawson about 1867

Children	Born	Died
Elizabeth Wilson	7-21-1868	8-22-1869

Peter Wilson married (2nd) Emmaline Stone Lawson 1870

Children	Born	Died
54 John Lawson Wilson	9-27-1872	11-4-1920
55 Mary Wallace Wilson	6-30-1875	
56 Sheridan Smith Wilson	2-10-1878	
57 Andrew Clarence Wilson	8-8-1880	3-16-1902
58 Grace Gertrude Wilson	8-31-1882	6-14-1883
59 Nelle McCosh Wilson	11-12-1884	
60 Peter Lawrence Wilson	1-2-1887	

A TRIBUTE TO HIS BROTHER'S MEMORY

by James Wilson
from the files of the Star-Clipper of 1887

Peter Wilson is dead! This startling announcement spread rapidly over our town last Saturday evening. It circulated through the community on Sabbath and into every part of the country. It was so unexpected and so painful that it brought a cloud of sorrow over the country as perhaps the death of no other man has caused.

* * * * *

Peter Wilson was born fifty years ago in Ayrshire, Scotland. He came with his father's family to the United States about thirty-six years since, thirty-two of which have been spent in Iowa and Tama county. He was a representative

of the neighborhood, a man who quietly takes upon himself the duties of life and deals faithfully and generously with his country and his neighbor. Should you ask Tama county people of his life they would tell you it was a great success. Beyond his county he was little known, as the men upon whom the republic leans are not much heard of outside of the range of their life work. Within the sphere of their usefulness those neighborhood men are the marks set up by advancing humanity to see how far it has got.

When Peter became of age he was adopted by the United States and given all the privileges of a citizen. Up to this time he had his way to make among fourteen children, and his cases to look after in the family court where his mother presided. He was not reputed as a saintly little fellow in whose mouth butter would not melt, but was so sunshiny that he kept the nursery well warmed up. It is said that when his mother had company Peter was also likely to entertain in the orchard or hay-mow, and pies and cakes and jellies and fruits would be missing, and the burden of proof would be on him to prove what had become of them. The prosecution by brothers and sisters was always vigorous until conviction looked likely, when leading witnesses would modify and take back, and Peter would get clear. So family stories ran when he was absent and his life in jeopardy.

His majority had not long been reached when a terrible test was put upon him and his family. The country was threatened with dissolution. Tama county families were offering their best boys as pledges of patriotism. The native born American descended from revolutionary families and familiar with public affairs saw his duty as his fathers saw it a century sooner. The emigrant family to which Peter belonged considered the matter. Its family traditions were different only as the Covenanter differs from the Puritan, but they were cut off. The new relation with the United States had given shelter in distress, a home in adversity and

citizenship with no return or equivalent unless help were given the country in national danger. Father Wilson was very clear regarding the subject in dispute and concerning the gratitude he and his family owed the protecting nation. The boys had to settle for themselves who should be the first. Peter enlisted in company G, 14th Iowa infantry, in 1861. This was an Americanizing process for the family. It had more than ever at stake now, besides it brought fellowship and sympathy from other families that had made like offerings--and there were few that had not. Bonds of sympathy between families that had boys in the army became very strong. The father and mother of a soldier were venerated. Lifting one's hand to anyone was not a western habit in those days, but the whole-souled western man made his approval and gratitude evident to fathers and mothers of soldiers in other ways. Since 1861 the great magnitude of the war has seemingly blunted the correct sense of what is due to the survivors of the republic, but it was lively then, and it will revive when in the future we measure our heroes with common men.

Peter was at the taking of Donelson, in the battle of Shiloh, in the Hornet's Nest, was captured with the regiment, and being too ill to march to prison with the rest was left at a wayside hospital and paroled or exchanged soon. He was with Sherman in his Meridian expedition and up the Red river. He helped to capture Fort DeRussey, and fought under A. J. Smith at Pleasant Hills, where he was captured with most of his company. Orders had been sent to it to retreat, but the orderly was killed while carrying them, and the company surrounded. Peter observed afterwards that "the old 14th boys never retreated until they were commanded to do it." He was sent to camp Fort Tyler, Texas. The rations on the way consisted of one ear of corn each a day. He was kept prisoner fourteen months. Holes were dug in the ground for quarters. Texas beef and corn were the rations. The boys made saws out of barrel hoops with which they made combs out of the horns of the

cattle. These they traded with visiting Texas farmers for vegetables. They generally had enough to eat at that prison--such as it was. Peter was liberated in the spring of 1865, at the close of the war. A lieutenant's commission had been made out for him, but he could not be mustered in under it. At the close of the war he returned to civil life and gradually assumed the duties and responsibilities, in all of which he has made the reputation that can be made in quiet life that is more enduring than public notoriety.

There are rewards in farm life if one makes the farm the prime object. It develops men peculiarly. Reflection is more prominent than activity. Purposes are only accomplished after sustained effort for years, and this gives power to intelligent minds. Peter Wilson was not only an excellent farmer, leading in the improvement of his acres, the superiority of his animals, the success of his feeding and breeding, the public spirit he showed in associations that extended the knowledge of the field, the crop and the herd, but he was in demand in every laudable neighborhood undertaking. The Grand Army Post, where veterans plan to smooth the downhill path of life to those in need of help among them, will miss him; the agricultural societies will miss him; the Sunday school, of which he was superintendent, will miss him; his neighbors who liked to meet him will miss him; needy people, who wanted little favors will miss him; his father, who has been so often proud of him, will miss him; orphan children he was raising will miss him; brothers and sisters, four boys and two girls of his own all under fifteen years of age, will miss him; and the brave wife, who must now fill her place and his at home and abroad, will sadly miss Peter.

The wide expression of sympathy with his family on his sudden death showed the place he filled in the hearts of his neighbors. As much as a death-bed can be robbed of his horrors his was robbed--family and friends about it, and the

Christian's hope assured. The old metrical Psalm that tells of "the widow's stay and the orphan's help" came readily to his mind. It had been committed to his memory forty years ago against this trying hour, and was his greatest comfort. His life has been a joyous, sanguine, happy life. It has been very clear of selfish effort. He could have been a wealthier man, but not without being a narrower man. His period of army hardships curtailed his life many years. The veteran misses the nervous expenditure of army life after middle age. A year in the army shortens every man's life five years on the average. The lives of these good men are family and neighborhood heirlooms that act as object lessons. These lives do not cloud over and sink in oblivion like transient notoriety.

There is power in the influence of such a life, for whoever lives a life so notable as to hold the confidence and love of the people who mourn his loss, traces the marks of his own character on the characters of those by whom he is surrounded. There is promise in the end of such a life, for it has the pledge of all the blessedness which eternity is able to bestow.

Historian's Note: From the camps Peter Wilson wrote letters to the members of his family. These were preserved by his mother. The family of Peter Wilson is indebted to Janette Stevenson Murray (Mrs. Frederick G. Murray of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, a former resident of the Tranquillity community,) for making possible the publication of these Civil War letters in the "Iowa Journal of History and Politics," at Iowa City. These war letters have been given by the family to the Iowa Historical Society at Iowa City.

It is remembered by Peter Wilson's older children that he read widely and had an appreciation of the classics. Some of the herd of registered Short Horn cattle on his farm bore the names of the heroes and heroines of

Sir Walter Scott's Waverly Novels. He had a keen sense of humor and had a special aptitude for story telling.

54 John Lawson Wilson married Mary Krezek 1-28-1897

Children	Born	Died
61 Marjorie Mary Wilson	8-15-1898	3-5-1931
62 Emma Genevieve Wilson	12-23-1899	
63 Ralph Peter Wilson	6-10-1903	

John Wilson received his education in Traer High School, Capital City Commercial College, and Iowa State College. He followed various lines of activity, having been bookkeeper in the Traer State Bank, manager of the elevator at Clutier, and for sixteen years held positions in the Tama County Court House. At the time of his death he was deputy county treasurer.

61 Marjorie Wilson married Otis A. Budlong 6-26-1916

Children	Born	Died
64 Otis A. Budlong, Jr.	6-18-1918	
65 Mary Margaret Budlong	10-16-1923	
66 Marjorie Ann Budlong	2-27-1931	

Marjorie Wilson attended Toledo, Iowa High School. She was active in O. E. S., White Shrine, and 4 H and Farm Bureau work.

64 Otis Budlong, Jr. married Edna Iseminger 4-2-1941

Children	Born	Died
67 Delbert Wilson Budlong	9-4-1943	
68 James Arthur Budlong	1-8-1947	
69 Irving Warren Budlong	10-6-1948	
70 Kathryn Marie Budlong	3-11-1951	

Otis Budlong graduated from Janesville, Iowa, High School and attended Iowa State Teachers College. He is a successful farmer and cattle feeder living near Waterloo, Iowa.

65 Mary Budlong married Norman McArthur 8-15-1950

Mary Budlong graduated from Janesville, Iowa, High School and received a B. A. Degree from Iowa State Teachers College. She is a member of the O. E. S. and White Shrine. Her home is at Hampton, Iowa.

66 Marjorie Budlong (Franck) married Charles Burley 9-3-1950

Marjorie Budlong graduated from Rockwell City, Iowa, High School and attended Iowa State College. She is at present in California with her husband who is in training in the Medical Corps. of the Army.

62 Emma Wilson married Otto E. Franck 6-4-1921

Children

Born

Died

71 Robert Wilson Franck

7-22-1922

Emma Wilson graduated from Toledo, Iowa, High School and studied violin at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago, Illinois, for two years. She gave instruction on the violin for a number of years. Having a green thumb, Emma specializes in the growing of African Violets. Her windows are lined with choice varieties in great number. Her garden produces the family's need for vitamins each year. In short-- "She looketh well to the ways of her household and eateth not the bread of idleness."

71 Robert Wilson Franck married Dana Jean Shoemaker 3-8-1945

Children	Born	Died
72 Tamara Jill Franck	4-13-1949	
73 Shanda Sue Franck	6-3-1952	

Robert Franck Education: Rockwell City, Iowa, High School 1936-1940; Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, 1940-1943, B. S. C. degree; Notre Dame University, South Bend, Indiana, 1943-1944; Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration 1947-1948, M B. A. degree.

Military: First Lieutenant, U. S. Marine Corps, 1942-1946. Served in Pacific and Asiatic Theaters with duty in Guam, Hawaii, and China.

Business: Joined Cummins Engine Company, Inc., Columbus, Indiana, in 1948 as Market Research Analyst. Currently Supervisor of Market Research for same company. Company manufactures high-speed Diesel engines.

63 Ralph Wilson married Mildred Bookey 6-29-1931

Children	Born	Died
74 Sue Elaine Wilson	1-10-1936	7-27-1942
75 Margaret Ann Wilson	5-11-1940	

Ralph Wilson graduated from Toledo, Iowa, High School and received a degree in Bachelor of Dairying from Iowa State College. He became Field Superintendent for Armour & Co. at Creston, Iowa; manager of Sunnyvale Dairy at Belding, Mich.; and later was Resident Director for the National Youth Administration at Belding, Mich.

He entered service in 1942 as a First Lieutenant and was stationed at Ft. Eustis, Virginia, Ft. Totten, N. Y., Hartford, Conn., Camp Rucker, Ala., and Camp Stewart, Ga. When discharged in 1944 he held the rank of captain in the Coast Artillery.

At present he is Appraiser Engineer for the Farm Home Administration at Hastings, Michigan.

55 Mary Wallace Wilson, a graduate of Traer, Iowa, High School, attended Iowa State College for one semester and taught in the rural schools near Traer until entering the Presbyterian Hospital Training School for Nurses in Chicago, Ill. Graduating as a registered nurse in 1908, she practiced her profession in Chicago doing special duty and Institutional work.

She held the position of Supervisor of Obstetrical Nursing in the Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago when she resigned in 1937 to care for her mother who was in failing health. It was her privilege in 1929, to have a leave of absence from hospital duties, and spend three months traveling with a group in Europe. She is a member of the P. E. O. Sisterhood in Traer and is active in the Tranquillity Presbyterian Church. She lives with her brother Sherd on the home farm.

56 Sheridan Smith Wilson, following his graduation from Traer, Iowa, High School, took over the management of his mother's farm and assumed the obligations existing at that time. He continued for some years in the development of the herd of registered Short Horn cattle his father had started, but changing times made beef cattle more profitable to produce than registered stock.

Sherd is a member of the Consistory and Shrine and recently received his 50 year certificate from the local Masonic organization. He has been an elder in the Tranquillity Presbyterian Church for many years.

59 Nellie McCosh Wilson married John R. Currens 6-14-1909

Children	Born	Died
76 Jean Wilson Currens	3-8-1913	
77 John Randolph Currens, Jr.	9-3-1917	

Nellie Wilson graduated from Traer, Iowa, High School and attended college in Grinnell for one semester. She taught in the rural schools of Perry township until her marriage. Now incapacitated by rheumatoid arthritis, she sits in her chair, ready with a cheerful greeting for all comers. Her indomitable spirit looks forward to the time when scientific medicine will enable her to walk again.

76 Jean Wilson Currens married Clifford C. Lyon 6-14-1947

Children	Born	Died
78 Randolph Wilson Lyon	7-4-1949	
79 Janelle Mary Lyon	12-17-1951	

Jean W. Currens is a graduate from Traer, Iowa, High School, has a B. A. degree from Iowa State Teachers College at Cedar Falls, Iowa, and an M. A. degree from the State University of Iowa. She is the author of The Handbook of Dental Hygiene for elementary teachers, published by the University of Iowa press.

Jean is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, honorary educational fraternity, a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and is a member of the American Association of University Women. She is a former teacher and principal in the schools of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Her home is in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

77 John R. Currens, Jr., married M. Eleanor Middleton 9-8-1951

"Randy" is a graduate of Traer, Iowa, High School and attended Iowa State College for a special winter course in Agriculture. He has been active in Farm Bureau work and was president of the Perry township Farm Bureau organization for two years.

He is a farmer, a Mason, and O. E. S.

60 Peter L. Wilson married (1st) Beulah Stoakes 2-9-1916

Children	Born	Died
80 Evan Stoakes Wilson	3-15-1920	

Peter L. Wilson married (2nd) Ruth K. Spawn 6-28-1927

Children	Born .	Died
81 Crystal Faye Wilson	3-17-1934	

"Pete" Wilson is a graduate of Traer, Iowa, High School and attended a Business College in Des Moines. In his youth he went into partnership with Clarence Archer, a neighbor, and farmed a section of land for three years in Alberta, Canada. This experience made them satisfied that Iowa agriculture offered greater opportunities, than did far away places. Pete, genial and with a ready humor, has many friends. He lives on his farm near Traer, Iowa. He is a Mason.

80 Evan S. Wilson is a graduate of Traer, Iowa, High School and had a winter special course in Agriculture at Iowa State College at Ames. He is a farmer and a Mason.

81 Crystal Faye Wilson graduated from Traer, Iowa, High School with the class of 1952. While a senior, she took local, district, and sub-state honors in the Iowa High School Speech Contest. In the American Legion Oratorical Contest she received local, county, and district honors.

Her subject was "Our Constitution: Ordained and Sustained by Free Men."

Crystal plans to enter Arizona State University in Tucson, Arizona.

FLORA WILSON

The following tribute is from
the files of the Traer Star-Clipper of 1934

Flora Wilson was the third child and first daughter of John and Jean McCosh Wilson. "Aunt Flora", as she was tenderly called by scores of friends, as well as her many relatives in Traer and community, one of the most universally beloved residents of Traer for thirty-five years, among old and young, was born June 18, 1838, in Ayrshire, Scotland and lived to be ninety-six years old.

Shortly after the family came to Iowa, Miss Wilson entered the first class of the newly established Grinnell College at Grinnell, Iowa. She left college as a junior because of poor health and returned to Scotland to visit her relatives.

After many years of teaching in Tama County schools and activity in Presbyterian church work, Miss Wilson joined a Mediterranean cruise of ministers and church workers about 1900. They visited many lands and Miss Wilson, who had a letter of introduction from John Hay, Secretary of State in the McKinley cabinet, met many prominent leaders in the far east and was a guest in the palace of the Sultan of Turkey, a courtesy at that time extended to few westerners.

Miss Wilson, besides being a teacher, bought and sold land and later was a merchant in Kossuth County and in Traer.

When Tama Jim retired as Secretary of Agriculture he came to make his home with her.

JEAN LUSK WILSON

4 Jean Lusk Wilson married Sheridan Praul Smith 6-11-1873

Children	Born	Died
82 George B. Smith	1879	1881
83 Theodosia Smith	6-2-1881	

TRIBUTE TO "AUNT JEAN"

Written by E. E. Taylor, deceased,
Former Editor of the Traer Star-Clipper

Jean Lusk Wilson was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, and came to America with her parents when eleven years of age, settling in Norwich, Connecticut. They came to Iowa in 1855. Jean Wilson graduated from the first class at Grinnell College in 1865.

Before her marriage, Miss Jean Wilson won more than local fame as a teacher. She taught forty terms in rural and graded schools. For several years she taught in Traer High School. She was a teacher in the blind asylum at Vinton for five years. It was through her efforts that the state legislature made an appropriation to erect the present college buildings. She accomplished this by taking a class of the blind boys and girls to the legislature and demonstrating what could be accomplished by right instruction for them. So appreciative were the state officials of Jean Wilson's work that at the time of her marriage they presented her with a set of china and a set of silver and furnished a bounteous wedding dinner.

Jean Smith was a woman of brilliant mental attainments, of wide reading, deep learning, and broad culture. She was a great student of the Bible and a thorough Christian.

83 Theodosia Smith married John Alex Carpenter 8-2-1904

Children

Born

Died

84 John Allan Carpenter

5-11-1917

Theo Smith graduated from Traer High School, attended Grinnell College, and was a student of voice culture in Chicago for two years. Theo was the soprano in the well known Nevin quartet which delighted Traer audiences in the nineties. Her home is in Chicago, Illinois.

84 John Allan Carpenter graduated from West Waterloo High School, from the State Teachers College at Cedar Falls and for two years was a teacher in the Des Moines, Iowa schools. At present Allan is Director of Research and Information at "Popular Mechanics" in Chicago. He is founder and editor of "Teachers Digest". He has also published two books -- Between Two Rivers and Hi, Neighbor! -- and writes for "Coronet," "Magazine Digest," "Science Digest," "Compton's Encyclopedia," and "Readers Digest!" He is a trustee in the Kenwood Community church and for five years was the Sunday School superintendent of that institution.

Allan is a member of the Business Men's Orchestra of Chicago.

1910 1911 1912

1913 1914 1915

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JANET WILSON

5 Janet Wilson married James Sloss 3-12-1875

Children	Born	Died
85 Allen Duncan Sloss	10-19-1877	2-27-1878
86 Herman West Sloss	9 yrs.	8-19-1888
87 John A. Sloss	6 yrs.	1-27-1888
88 Flora Wilson Sloss	5 yrs.	8-29-1888

Janet Wilson, third daughter and fifth child of John and Jean McCosh Wilson, was born in Ayrshire, Scotland and came with her parents to Tama County, Iowa, in 1855. She was educated in the local rural schools and in Iowa College at Grinnell, Iowa. She spent several years teaching in the Tama County schools.

After her marriage she lived on a farm near Dinsdale, Iowa, and there suffered the loss of all her children. Three children were taken in one year; Hermie, 9, and Flora, 5, the only girl and pride of her life, died within a period of ten days of what was then called "summer complaint." Her anguish of mind was overwhelming and she grieved long without finding comfort in the faith of her fathers. As time passed, study of her Bible brought comfort and peace. Her Matthew Henry Commentary on the Bible was given, at her death, to the writer's mother, Mrs. Peter Wilson. It was well worn and bore marked passages.

Mrs. Sloss lived in Traer the latter years of her life and bravely cared for her husband through a trying illness.

The former editor of the Traer Star-Clipper, E. E. Taylor, said of her: "She was a great lover of literature, good verse, history,

and an earnest student of the Bible, also of national issues and a sincere lover of the Lord Jesus Christ. She was brainy, distinctively practical and very sound in judgement."

JOHN WILSON

6 John Wilson married Mary Ann Shearer 12-25-1881

Children	Born	Died
89 West Clyde Wilson	10-15-1883	
90 Allen Wilson	8-5-1886	

John Wilson was born in the county of Wigton, parish of Old Luce, farm of Balcarry, Scotland, and came to America with his family when a boy.

He received his education in the county schools and was farming when the Civil War began. John enlisted as a private in August, 1864, and belonged to Co. M. Regiment of the 1st Iowa Cavalry Volunteers. He was discharged in June, 1865. His captain was Solomon Townsend.

An incident in his army life as related by the children's mother tells of John being on a march through swampy territory, and, ill with fever, was unable to go on with his comrades. A small colored boy found him and ran to get his mammy who helped the sick man to their cottage and cared for him until his return to duty. John was hospitalized at different times and was in ill health following his discharge from the army. He died at an early age of a heart ailment.

It is remembered that John Wilson was an entertainer in his own right. In the early days of our community, the young people created their own fun and frolic. John Wilson and West McDowall, cousins and cronies, were leaders in making merry and by mimicry, song, and dance, delighted their neighborhood audiences.

89 West Clyde Wilson was named for his father's cousin, West McDowall, who had served with him in the army and shared his experiences.

Clyde was educated in the Wright County schools and early in life took his father's place in maintaining the home.

He was for many years foreman for the Whyte Motor Co. in Goldfield, Iowa. He is now retired and living in Goldfield.

90 Allen Wilson was educated in the Wright County, Iowa schools. He was inducted into the army (World War I) July 23, 1918 at Clarion, Iowa and served at Camp Pike, Arkansas in a Provost Guard Co.* He was discharged January 8, 1919 at Camp Dodge, Iowa. He was a member of Casual Co. Dep. #26, 163 Dept. Brigade.

Allen lives with his brother Clyde in Goldfield, Iowa. The brothers, both retired, have been spending their winters in Florida.

* This is the same area in which his father, John Wilson, was in service during the Civil War.

WEST WILSON

7 West Wilson married Agnes McCornack 11-28-1871

Children	Born	Died
91 Charles Andrew Wilson	9-16-1874	
92 Robert Wilson	2-13-1877	1-19-1903
93 George Wilson	1-16-1880	6-25-1881
94 Margaret Wilhelmina Wilson	1-16-1882	
95 Ruth Elizabeth Wilson	4-2-1884	

Contributed by Ruth Wilson Cleland

West Wilson, seventh child and fourth son of John and Jean McCosh Wilson, was born in Glenluce, Wigtonshire, Scotland, and came to America with his parents when a boy of eight years.

He was educated in the schools of Tama county and taught in them briefly. It is remembered that when Agnes McCornack won a spelling match in the school where he was teaching, the children whispered, "That's teacher's girl." He attended a Business College at Davenport, Iowa. Though too young to be drafted in the Civil War, he took the place of an older man who was drafted.

West was a farmer for a few years, then became a buyer and shipper of stock in Traer and later followed the same line of work in Wright and Kossoth counties in Iowa. The family lived in Ames, Iowa, for several years.

About 1895 he with his brother David, founded the firm of Wilson Bros. & Co., Commission Merchants at the Union Stock Yards in Chicago. Following David's death, his son Charles joined him in the business and much later his grandson Donald, making it possible for

him to continue in the business until his death in 1923.

The last months of his life were spent at his farm in Boone Co., Illinois, which he owned in partnership with his wife. He also had a 320 acre farm in Ogle County, Illinois, both of which gave him great satisfaction. At heart he was always a farmer and was interested in new scientific methods in farming. The first car-load of limestone spread in Boone County was on his land and the waist high stand of sweet clover that followed, repaid him.

West Wilson was an elder in the 2nd United Presbyterian Church in Chicago for many years. He followed the example of his father in establishing a family altar in his own home and faithfully maintained it through all the years that followed. His home was always open to ministers and missionaries.

Written by Mrs. Margaret Wilson Turner,
now living in Blockley, England.

Few children can have had so lovable a father as ours. His mind had a quality of rare sweetness. I never remember anger in his face or excitement in his voice. As Christ's son, he did not let his heart be troubled by anything. He worshipped God by imperturbability, as they say. Like his sisters I knew best, he had a warm hearted placidity most comfortable to children. He was always generous in his judgements and in material things. He gave money away with a sort of gaiety which still makes me smile when I remember it. Would to God we were all more like him.

91 Charles Andrew Wilson married Blanche Elizabeth Greeley 7-25-1900

	Children	Born	Died
96	Donald Greeley Wilson	5-11-1901	6-4-1935
97	Robert Greeley Wilson	11-11-1903	
98	Elizabeth Greeley Wilson	1-11-1911	1-18-1911
99	Marjorie Greeley Wilson	11-7-1919	

Charles A. Wilson graduated from Iowa State College at Ames in 1895. After a few years experience as a traveling salesman and general merchant he, in 1901, joined his father in the Live Stock Commission business at Union Stock Yards in Chicago. Charles was president of the Live Stock Exchange 1931-1932.

He is retired and supervises his farm near Byron, Ill., in cattle feeding and other farm activities. He has appeared on the radio on farm programs. A discriminating reader and a logical thinker, Charles is articulate with respect to his beliefs. He has received his 55 year graduate medal from Iowa State College. His home is in Winnetka, Illinois.

96 Donald Greeley Wilson married Florence Brown 8-23-1923

	Children	Born	Died
100	Doris Jean Wilson	6-8-1924	6-12-1924
101	West W. Wilson	8-25-1925	
102	Barbara Anne Wilson	12-30-1929	

Donald Wilson graduated from Englewood High School in Chicago and joined the W. W. Wilson & Co. Livestock Commission firm at the Union Stock Yards in Chicago. He was its hog salesman for ten years. This company in which grandfather, son, and grandson served the public,

drew its support from Tama and Kossuth counties in Iowa and other areas where its founders were well known. With the changing times, keen competition arose in the establishment of packing houses located at Waterloo and Sioux City. In 1929 the business was sold to Norris & Holgate Co. with home territory in Illinois. Donald then entered the retail mercantile business. He died at an early age and is remembered as a gentle, sensitive, kindly and thoughtful man.

101 West W. Wilson graduated from Englewood High School in Chicago, Illinois. He entered the army (World War II) and was sent to Florida Co. "C" 216 Bn. 66th Regt. Camp Blanding. After six months service he was given an honorable discharge because of a thyroid condition. He took up the study of account. Later major surgery was recommended as a health measure. He is now employed in Naperville, Illinois, where he lives with his mother.

102 Barbara Ann Wilson married J. L. Lambert 3-24-1951

Barbara is a graduate of Parker High School in Chicago and was employed in Naperville, Illinois, until her marriage. Her home is in Naperville, Illinois.

97 Robert Greeley Wilson married Elizabeth Franck 5-6-1929

Children	Born	Died
103 Robert Greeley Wilson, Jr.	3-18-1932	
104 Margaret O'Neil Wilson	6-23-1935	
105 Lynn Carter Wilson	12-13-1938	

Robert G. Wilson graduated from Englewood High School in Chicago, Illinois, and from the University of Chicago. Shortly after his marriage he and his wife traveled in Europe and lived in Italy for a year.

Following his return to this country Robert entered the advertising business and has met with outstanding success. He is at present the Vice President and partner of the U. P. Ruthrauff & Ryan Advertising Agency in New York City. The family home is in Rye, N. Y.

103 Robert G. Wilson, Jr. is a junior student at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. He is spending his vacation (1952) at Paris Island, North Carolina in a Marine Officers Training Camp.

104 Margaret O'Neil Wilson is a student in Connecticut College.

105 Lynn Carter Wilson is in high school in Rye, N. Y.

99 Marjorie Greeley Wilson, daughter of Charles Wilson, is a graduate of Englewood High School in Chicago, Illinois, attended Knox College in Illinois, and is a graduate of Chicago University. She is a copy writer for the firm of Hibbard, Spencer, Bartlett & Co. of Chicago. Marjorie makes her home with her father in Winnetka, Illinois.

94 Margaret Wilhelmina Wilson married George Douglas Turner in Paris 12-25-1925

Contributed by Ruth Wilson Cleland

Margaret Wilhelmina Wilson went to India in September of 1904 following her graduation earlier that year from the University of Chicago. In all she did missionary work there twelve years. She returned for her first furlough in the fall of 1913. About two years later she had a severe attack of typhoid fever and returned to this country in 1915. She returned to India later that same year, but some time later was forced to give up her missionary work on account of her health and returned to this country permanently in 1916.

Doing graduate work at the University of Chicago she was advised

to send some stories of India to the Atlantic Monthly which published them. Later these stories appeared in book form as Trousers of Taffeta, and she wrote one other story of India called Daughters of India.

Dividing her time between studying and teaching and helping with the care of her father in his years of failing health she produced in 1923 The Able McLaughlins, a novel in which she hoped to preserve pioneer tales of the family in its early days in Iowa. However much the family liked her mixture of fact and fiction, Harpers liked it well enough to give her the first Harper Prize for the best novel of the year and later she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize, no small accomplishment for a first novel. She also wrote three other novels about the same family.

Years later after living in several English prisons she wrote on contract a history of punishment, which is listed in many university libraries as a reference book on that subject. The title originally was to be The Punishment of Crime, but after gathering the shocking material she changed it to The Crime of Punishment. Her husband was for several years the Governor of Prison in several English prisons so her experience was first hand as well as from research. One novel came out of her prison experience and her reading, called The Valient Wife, and was an account of prison life in the war of 1812.

Her last book published is a mystery tale for children called The Devon Treasure Mystery.

In 1937 her husband was forced by failing health to give up his work and they retired to the village of Blockley where he died in 1946. After twenty years in England she seems content to remain there.

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95 Ruth Elizabeth Wilson married Kenneth W. Cleland 3-9-1910.

Ruth Wilson is a graduate of Chicago University. Hers is the story of a city girl who made good on a farm.

Girl meets boy. Boy, following his graduation from college, comes to the city to get a job. Each had a yen for the wide open spaces. Following their marriage, their first adventure in farming was on the Cleland ancestral acres, a hilly farm in Ohio; but the level, fertile fields of Intercreeken (Ruth's father's farm in Boone County, Illinois) offered a better outlook. She has said of this experience, "It was always such a pleasure to work for father. Whenever there was anything new he was willing to try it."

In cooperation with the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station at Urbana, Illinois, Ruth kept accounts on the farm's various activities, which included a flock of chickens, her own special project, and a herd of registered Holstein cattle. Living within the Chicago milk territory meant meeting the sanitary requirements exacted by the Chicago milk companies. A feature for the record was a photograph of all Holstein calves showing their characteristic black and white markings. Dairying meant long hours and hard work.

Ruth's love of flowers came not from the Wilson side of the house, but from her Grandmother McCornack. Her garden was the work of her own hands and emphasis was made on color harmony and choice variety in perennial and shrub. Sharing her plants was as much a pleasure as bringing them to perfection. This spirit of giving found expression during the war years in regularly providing for her sister Margaret the articles in short supply in England where "austerity"

was preached and practiced. "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver!"

Ruth and her husband, now retired, live in Belvedere, Illinois. The farm is their hobby, the Holsteins are cared for by younger hands. They retain their enthusiasm for modern methods and the scientific approach to farm problems.

A visit from these retired farmers, "doeth good like a medicine."

ANDREW WILSON

8 Andrew Wilson married Mary Brown about 1870

	Children	Born	Died
106	Eugene Richard Wilson	12-29-1872	1913
107	Benjamin West Wilson	2-7-1875	12-29-1927
108	Harry Andrew Wilson	5-23-1877	10-21-1906

Andrew Wilson, eighth child and fifth son of John and Jean McCosh Wilson was born in Gallowayshire, Scotland and came to this country with his parents when a boy.

He went to school in Tama County and helped his father as he grew to manhood. Following his marriage he engaged in the grain business in Reinbeck, Iowa. Andrew and his wife contracted typhoid fever and died within a period of three weeks time, leaving three orphaned boys. He was 32 years old at the time of his death.

"Ben" and Eugene were taken into the home of their uncle Peter Wilson and remained there until they went to Iowa State College at Ames, Iowa. Harry was raised by his aunt, Mrs. S. P. Smith.

106 Eugene R. Wilson was born in Reinbeck, Iowa. He received his education in the Tama County schools and graduated from Iowa State College in 1895. He participated in athletics while in college, being a star foot racer. It is remembered that Eugene was an avid reader and found special delight in the study of astronomy. He taught school in Oregon and in Washington and died of pneumonia at Wala Wala, Washington. He was buried there.

107 Benjamin West Wilson, popularly called "Ben", graduated from Iowa State College in 1896 with the degree of Bachelor of Agriculture.

It was there Ben first became interested in football. He was a pupil of the famous coach Glen Warner; first gained fame at Ames and later as halfback at Cornell University. "The Great Falls (Montana) Daily Tribune," at the time of Ben's death, carried a syndicated article telling of his football career. I quote: "At Ames Wilson and his cousin "Big Jim" Wilson, now dean of the South Dakota College of Agriculture at Brookings, played end. They won for the Ames team its first fame among the bigger institutions when in 1896 the Iowa team went to Chicago and swamped Northwestern University 36 to 0 on its own field, getting the name of 'Cyclones.' In that game the Wilson cousins carried the ball for wonderful gains and broke up Northwestern's plays with monotonous regularity." End of quote.

Following his graduation at Ames, Ben went to Cornell University, N. Y., to study geology.

While playing professional football in the Northwest he became familiar with the mining region in Montana and in 1900 organized the Bismark Mining Co. and established an office in Butte, Montana. Ben died of pneumonia in Butte, Montana in 1927; the body was brought back to Traer for burial in Buckingham cemetery.

108 Harry Andrew Wilson was born in Reinbeck, Iowa and was left an orphan at the age of fifteen months when both parents died. He was given a home and raised to manhood by Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Smith of Traer.

Harry received his education in Traer, Iowa, High School and Iowa State College. At the time of his death in 1906 he was with his brother Ben in his mining activities in Butte, Montana.

AGNES WILSON

- 9 Agnes Wilson, fourth daughter and ninth child of John and Jean McCosh Wilson, was born in the county of Wigton, parish of Old Luce, farm of Balcarry, Scotland and came to America with her parents in 1851 and to Iowa in 1855. She was a student in Iowa College in Grinnell when she contracted typhoid fever, from which she did not recover. She died at the age of twenty-one years; the first death in the family of fourteen children.

DAVID WILSON

10 David Wilson married Josephine Shearer 2-24-1890

	Children	Born	Died
109	Bruce Wilson	7-24-1891	2-6-1894
110	Wallace Wilson	7-17-1892	7-17-1892
111	Leslie Vance Wilson	6-24-1893	
112	Grace Marguerite Wilson	11-20-1895	

Contributed by Grace Wilson

David Wilson, the sixth son and tenth child of John and Jean McCosh Wilson, was one of twin children born in Norwich, Connecticut. After the family moved to Tama County, Iowa, David attended the rural school and later went to Grinnell Academy at Grinnell, Iowa.

While growing into manhood, much of his time was spent helping with the farm work and in due time he took on added responsibility so that his brothers Peter and John might enlist in the army during the Civil War.

When it became possible for David to form plans for his personal life he went to Wright County, Iowa, near Goldfield and engaged in farming and stock raising with his brother West.

The local paper of that time says of his marriage at the Wm. Shearer home: "The boys all noticed quite a change in Dave lately but charged it up to 'grip'. Instead, it would seem he had an unrelenting grip on a young lady. David, so be it, with the right hand of fellowship."

About the year 1895 David and his brother West, with their families moved to Chicago, Illinois, and established the Wilson Bros. & Co. Livestock Commission Firm at the Union Stockyards. However, after a few

years of operation the partnership was interrupted by the death of David. He had succumbed to a heart attack, following several months of illness from nephritis. David Wilson was known as a devoted husband, a kind brother, and a man of noble principles.

111 Leslie V. Wilson married Laura Jeanette Lenfest 7-24-1920

Children	Born	Died
113 Janet Ruth Wilson	6-14-1922	
114 Mary Ann Wilson	1-8-1924	
115 Nancy Wilson	11-4-1932	

Leslie V. Wilson graduated from the Grinnell, Iowa, High School and from Iowa State College in 1917 with the degree of Bachelor of Agriculture. He enlisted in the U. S. Army in 1917, becoming Field Artillery Sergeant, and was discharged while in Officers Training Camp Zachary Taylor, at Louisville, Ky., in November, 1918.

From 1919 to 1926 Leslie was a member of the Teaching and Dairy Extension Staff of the University of Minnesota.

In 1926 he became manager of Boulder Bridge Farm Co. at Excelsior, Minnesota, breeders of Guernsey cattle, Belgian horses, and Duroc Jersey swine, and remained in that position until 1950. He has a record of eight national championships, and over four hundred blue ribbons.

Recognition came to Leslie in his being made Director of the American Guernsey Cattle Club and of the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America.

He has been a judge at four national livestock expositions and at twelve different state fairs.

Leslie now lives on his own farm near Owatonna, Minn. He is employed by the American Guernsey Cattle Club as Official Classifier--

Territory U. S. A.

113 Janet Ruth Wilson married Ralph Stanley Gordon 2- - 1945

Children

Born

Died

116 James Wilson Gordon 3-31-1951

Janet R. Wilson received her education at Excelsior Springs, Minn. Public School, Carleton College at Northfield, Minn., and is a graduate from the University of Minn. She was the editor of her high school paper, the associate editor of the Carletonian at college and on the editorial staff of the University of Minnesota Daily.

Janet lives in Pittsburg, Penn., where her husband is employed by the Mellon Institute as an industrial engineer.

114 Mary Ann Wilson married John Kitterhagen 11-10-1951

Mary Ann Wilson was educated in Excelsior Springs, Minn., High School and is a graduate from Carleton College at Northfield, Minn. (1940). She was secretary of the Women's League during her junior year in college and its president during her senior year. After her graduation, she was Associate Dean of Women at Carleton College for a time and later became Asst. Director of Credit Union, Employers Mutual Insurance Co., Warsaw, Wisconsin.

115 Nancy Wilson graduated from Excelsior Springs, Minn., High School and had one year at Homline University, St. Paul, Minn., majoring in music. She felt she wanted to work at a job, so now is employed at "Dayton's" in Minneapolis.

112 Grace Marguerite Wilson, daughter of David Wilson. Educational training: B. S. Degree, Iowa State Teachers College, 1939, with major in Home Economics and minors in English and Chemistry; A. M. Degree, University of Chicago,

1941, major field in Educational Psychology--Guidance & Testing, Diagnostic and remediation work in reading and adolescent problems. Experience: Previous to 1939, teacher of Home Economics in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and Winona, Minn. and Health Worker at Brookings, S. D. and Kearney, Nebr.; War Years, member of educational staff of the Govt. Relocation Authority school for Japanese Americans, Rivers, Ariz., member of Screening Boards (loyalty cases), member of U. S. Civil Service Examination Board--regional division for Arizona; Present work, instructor and director of the reading improvement program, Foundation High School of Berea College, Berea, Ky. Also, Director of testing in the Guidance Program. Affiliations: International House Assn., Inc., Chicago University Chapter, Chicago, Ill. Member of the Episcopal Church.

MARGARET WILSON

11 Margaret Wilson married Rev. James Hume Turnbull 1876

Children	Born	Died
116 John Wilson Turnbull	8-2-1877	8-28-1932
117 David Wilson Turnbull	8-2-1877	8-2-1877

Margaret Wilson, fifth daughter and eleventh child of John and Jean McCosh Wilson, a twin sister of David Wilson, was born in Lisbon, Conn., and came to Iowa with her parents in 1855. She was educated in the rural schools of Tama county and in Iowa College at Grinnell, Iowa. She married Rev. Turnbull while he was pastor at Tranquillity Church and together they went to a new pastorate in Fall River, Mass. Margaret died following the birth of twin boys, one of whom also died.

116 John Wilson Turnbull married (1st) Tricilla A. Wilhorst 6-1-1922

John Wilson Turnbull married (2nd) Margaret Madison 7-11-1925

Children	Born	Died
118 John Wilson Turnbull, Jr.	11-24-1928	

John W. Turnbull was brought as an infant from Fall River, Mass. by his Aunt Flora Wilson and made his home with his Grandfather Wilson and his Aunt Flora until of school age. At that time his father, Rev. Turnbull, had a pastorate in North Carolina and John attended Pican Academy in that state. On his return to the west, he lived in the Tranquillity community for some time before taking up the study of Pharmacy in Highland Park, Des Moines. At one time he owned and operated his own drug store in Leigh, Nebraska. This was sold and John, with his family, moved to Detroit, Michigan, where he was employed in the same line of work. Shortly after his arrival John met with an accident from which he did not recover. He was a man of integrity and of high ideals.

118 John W. Turnbull, Jr. married Beverly Ray 1-13-1951

Children	Born	Died
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119 Linda Ray Turnbull	9-20-1951	
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John W. Turnbull, Jr., was born in Leigh, Nebraska and graduated from the High School in Central City, Nebr. He was active in athletics during that time and made a record in the broad jump. Possessing a pleasing baritone voice, he participated in music activities with emphasis on solo work.

John entered Nebraska Wesleyan University in 1946. During his sophomore year he enlisted in the Army Air Force and was sent to Lackland Air Base at San Antonio, Texas. He was assigned to the Office of Personnel as Asst. Personnel Officer. His rank is that of 2nd Lt. He has recently been returned by the Air Force to Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, Nebraska, to complete his college training. Then he must return to Randolph Field for assignment.

ELIZABETH WILSON

Written by Rowena Edwards

12 Elizabeth McCosh Wilson married Luther Henry Edwards 8-16-1876

	Children	Born	Died
120	Rowena Adeline Edwards	6-27-1877	
121	Albert Wilson Edwards	4-5-1881	12-15-1907
122	James McCosh Edwards	1-1-1883	5-23-1934
123	Agnes Genevieve Edwards	12-17-1889	5-11-1948

Elizabeth Wilson Edwards, the twelfth child of John and Jean McCosh Wilson, was born in Norwich, Connecticut and came with her parents to Iowa in 1855.

Her early education was received in the schools of Tama county. She graduated from Iowa State College in 1876.

After her marriage to Luther Edwards, she resided in Traer, Iowa, until 1881, when they moved to Waterloo.

In 1908, Mr. and Mrs. Edwards planned the founding of a new town at Rownd's Park, on the Cedar River, between Cedar Falls and Waterloo. This town was named Cedar Heights and remained an independent corporation until it became a part of Cedar Falls in 1935.

As the result of a petition made by Mrs. Edwards to the Waterloo Presbytery, the Cedar Heights Community Presbyterian Church was organized in 1916.

Poems written by her have been published in book form and in several anthologies of poetry.

For eighty-one years Mrs. Edwards made her home in Iowa and her mind was richly stored with memories of pioneer days..

Aspiration

And so we've been building,
Each soul, a fair temple,
Each stone laid with effort,
Each beam placed with care;
And so we've been climbing,
Though slow seems our progress
The steps leading upward
On God's wondrous stair.

Elizabeth Wilson Edwards

120 Rowena Adeline Edwards. Education: East Waterloo schools; Iowa State College, Ames; Simmons College, Boston. Employed in Weather Bureau Library, Washington, D. C., 1898-1914; Iowa State Teachers College Library, 1916- . Travelled in the U. S., Canada, Mexico, Cuba, and the British Isles.

121 Albert Wilson Edwards married Edla Robinson 1903.

Children	Born	Died
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124 Jannette Gibson Edwards	11-21-1904	
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Albert Wilson Edwards. Education: East Waterloo schools; Business College, Waterloo; gifted with an unusually fine voice. Studied vocal music. Employed by Waterloo Daily Courier.

124 Jannette Gibson Edwards married Dr. Herman C. Groman 3-19-1933.

Jamette Edwards. Education: Graduate of Denver, Colorado High School; Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls, Iowa. Taught art in public schools of Independence, Iowa, and Des Plaines, Illinois. Home in Hammond, Indiana; summer home on Lake Michigan. Travelled with her husband, Dr. Groman, in seventy-four countries.

122 James McCosh Edwards married Winafred Jennings 10-20-1910.

Children	Born	Died
125 James Jennings Edwards	6-4-1914	
126 Jane Louise Edwards	1-2-1920	
127 Rowena Margaret Edwards)	7-20-1924	
) Twins		
128 Winifred Jean Edwards)	7-20-1924	7-20-1924

James McCosh Edwards. Education: Graduate of East Waterloo High School; attended Iowa State College, Ames; U. of Wisconsin, Madison. Obtained patents on many devices including a cream separator, a magneto, and a die-casting machine. He developed the balance bowl idea for the cream separator. He was mayor of Cedar Heights from 1926 to 1934; interested in civic betterment of the town; elder in Cedar Heights Community Church. He was vice-president and Experimental Engineer of the Associated Manufacturers Corporation of America, Waterloo.

125 James Jennings Edwards married Delores Phelps 6-8-1940.

Children	Born	Died
129 James Phelps Edwards	6-20-1941	

James Jennings Edwards. Education: Graduate of Cedar Falls High School; Masters Degree in Engineering, Iowa State College, Ames, 1940. General Methods Engineer, Oldsmobile Division, General Motors Corporation, Lansing, Mich. James is at present Works Manager of General Motors plant in Arlington, Texas.

126 Jane Louise Edwards married Paul Van Houten 10-9-1942.

Children	Born	Died
130 Paul Edwards Van Houten	1-21-1946	
131 Lesley Louise Van Houten	8-23-1949	

Jane Louise Edwards. Education: Graduate Cedar Falls High School; graduate in

Primary-Kindergarten, Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls. Taught in Dumont (1940) and in Campus School, Iowa State Teachers College. Her home is in Monrovia, California. In 1949 she attended the Los Angeles Presbytery and petitioned for a church in Monrovia. A church was later organized and is called the Village Presbyterian Church of Arcadia.. Charter member and elder of that church.

127 Rowena Margaret Edwards married Donald L. Porter 8-20-1949.

Children	Born	Died
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132 Mark Edwards Porter

Rowena Margaret Edwards. Education: Graduate Cedar Falls High School; B. A. degree in Home Economics, Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls, 1946. Taught in Guthrie Center, Iowa; Assistant Director, Bartlett Hall, I. S. T. C.; taught in Downers Grove, Illinois. Flew to Hong Kong to be married to Donald Porter who was then employed by the Chase Bank in Hong Kong. Their home is now in Panama.

123 Agnes Genevieve Edwards married Andrew C. Feddersen 8-28-1912.

Children	Born	Died
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133 Elizabeth Marie Feddersen 5-27-1913

Agnes Genevieve Edwards. Education: Graduate East Waterloo High School; Degree in music from Iowa State Teachers College; B. M. degree Northwestern University, Chicago. Taught music , College for the Blind, Vinton, Iowa; Augustana College, Illinois; Columbus Junction Public Schools; Marengo Public Schools. Active in club and music circles.

Tributes to Genevieve Feddersen

"It is almost impossible to measure the worth of such an outstanding teacher. Her influence reached far beyond her pupils and her friends.

Probably there has never been a member of the Marengo school faculty loved more devotedly by her pupils and her friends than Mrs. Feddersen. She directed both the vocal and instrumental music here and her pupils won many honors in the preliminary and the state contests.

She accepted as her task that of making the community aware of the talent it possesses and that of developing an appreciation of the musical accomplishments of its young people. She succeeded admirably."

(From Pioneer Republican, Marengo, Iowa)

"Mrs. Feddersen's influence will live for many years. I can think of no one who has actually done as much for our school and our community as she."

(From letter written by Mr. G. A. Ellis, Editor, Pioneer-Republican)

"Mrs. Feddersen was a woman of high ideals, deeply religious, and willing to put her religion into practice in her every day contacts. She loved her home and family, enjoyed the good things in life that came to her, never lost her sense of humor, and even in her last illness her unselfishness and thoughtfulness for others, and her hopeful out-look never failed. Her life has been a benediction to everyone who knew her.

(From Columbus Gazette, Columbus Junction, Iowa)

"When people die, friends who are left like to sum up the life of a loved one in order to gain from it something of courage and inspiration for their own lives. Surely life will be richer for all of us because of knowing Genevieve Feddersen."

(Last paragraph of a tribute paid her by Bernice Gilmore.)

133 Elizabeth Marie Feddersen married Samuel L. Anderson 7- --1940.

Children

Born

Died

134 Karen Elizabeth Anderson 1-8-1942

135 Deborah Jean Anderson 5-3-1944

Elizabeth Marie Anderson. Education: Graduate High School, Columbus Junction, Iowa; B. A. Degree, Iowa State Teachers College. Taught in Jesup, Iowa; Highland Park, Illinois. Active in church work. Member of P. E. O. and other organizations. Travelled in Canada and in Europe in the summer of 1940. Her home is in Park Ridge, Illinois.

SARAH WILSON

13 Sarah Wilson married David McWhirter 4-18-1878

Children	Born	Died
131 James Jamison McWhirter	11-21-1880	
138 Wilhelmina Agnes McWhirter	1-21-1883	
139 Edna Jean McWhirter	1-25-1885	3-15-1929
140 Luva Lee McWhirter	6-10-1887	10-4-1902
141 Flora Gladys) Twins	
142 Florence Gladine		
143 David Wilson		

Sarah Wilson, seventh daughter and thirteenth child of John and Jean McCosh

Wilson, was born on the Wilson farm west of Traer. She attended the rural schools of Tama county and helped at home until her marriage when she went to live in Morrison, Iowa. The family later made their home in Reinbeck, Iowa, until they moved to South Dakota to take up a homestead near Vivien. Here in 1938, "Aunt Sarah and Uncle Dave" celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary. She was active in church and community work during these years.

Visits to Tama county always included a trip to Buckingham cemetery where, pausing at different gravesides, she was thoughtful and reminiscent. Aunt Sarah's outstanding qualities were kindness, a remarkable serenity of mind, and a sense of humor. With a memory for detail, her stories of the pioneer days in the Tranquillity community were worthy of permanent record. They would have been a rich heritage.

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2010	June	16
2010	June	17
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137 James McWhirter farmed with his father on their homestead near Vivien, South Dakota. This new and sparsely settled community made good use of Jim's ability. He taught school, sang at funerals, played trombone in the band and helped at home with farming and cattle raising.

This area plagued by draught, hail, and grasshoppers could not daunt his cheerful outlook nor bring gloom to his fun-loving spirit. He cared for his parents in their declining years thus fulfilling the requirement of the Fifth Commandment, "Honor Thy Father and Thy Mother." The years have taken their toll in health. He is somewhat incapacitated by rheumatoid arthritis. His home is in Belle Fourche, South Dakota.

138 Wilhelmina A. McWhirter married Evertt M. Roberts 3-25-1903.

Children	Born	Died
144 Leland Melvin Roberts	1-25-1904	
145 Jean Direza Roberts	4-8-1905	
146 Carol Evelyn Roberts)	3-30-1906	
) Twins		
147 Kenneth Everett Roberts)	3-30-1906	
148 David Wilson Roberts	2-2-1908	
149 Mary Louise Roberts	1-22-1911	
150 James Allan Roberts	4-1-1917	9-11-1918
151 Ruth Elaine Roberts)	10-26-1918	
) Twins		
152 Russell Elmer Roberts)	10-26-1918	
153 Marjorie Lucile Roberts	7-7-1921	10-25-1938

Ina McWhirter Roberts graduated from Reinbeck High School and taught in the rural schools of the county until her marriage. The family lived on a farm near Reinbeck save for some years spent in Wisconsin in farming and cattle feeding.

Few families show such loyalty and devotion to each other as does this family. Ina lives in Reinbeck, Iowa.

144 Leland M. Roberts married Dorothy W. Cheesman 7-5-1932.

Children	Born	Died
154 James Edwin Roberts	3-7-1934	2-12-1949
155 Le Ann Faye Roberts	8-25-1936	
156 Paul Larry Roberts	5-2-1938	
157 Sara Jane Roberts	5-18-1944	
158 Lucille Connie Roberts	12-10-1946	

Leland Roberts went to the rural school and helped at home on the farm until his marriage. Because of a heart ailment he was compelled to do lighter work. Having many special aptitudes he busied himself as a carpenter and cabinet maker. He was janitor in the Reinbeck, Iowa, consolidated school for ten years and now supervises others in that capacity. He is a member of the United Presbyterian Church in Reinbeck, Iowa.

145 Jean Roberts. In any good sized family, there is usually one member who makes sacrifices and fits in wherever needed. Jean Roberts is such a person. When school days were over, her mother needed her, her father depended on her. Children loved her and she cared for them as for the most precious thing in the world.

She planted a garden bordered by flowers. There were plants in the house and always an extra one to give away. Jean lives with her mother in Reinbeck, Iowa, and is employed in the local telephone exchange. Her service will be of the best.

146 Carol Roberts married James Wendell Fleming 7-15-1936.

Carol Roberts, twin sister of Kenneth Roberts, attended Iowa State Teacher's

College at Cedar Falls and taught in the rural schools of Grundy County until her marriage. She is active in community work and is a Sunday School teacher and worker in the United Presbyterian church in Reinbeck, Iowa.

147 Kenneth Roberts married Dorothea A. Saunders 9-18-1934.

Children	Born	Died
159 Mary Lucile Roberts	12-12-1936	
160 Donald Wilson Roberts	1-5-1939	

Kenneth Roberts, twin brother of Carol Roberts, is a successful farmer. He owns his own acres. He is a man of generous impulses and is thoughtful of others. He is an elder in the United Presbyterian church in Reinbeck, Iowa.

148 David Wilson Roberts married Elsy V. Tetgner 8-9-1935.

Children	Born	Died
161 David Sheridon Roberts	6-27-1936	
162 Sherill Dean Roberts	3-20-1940	

David Roberts farms near Morrison, Iowa. He is an elder in the Presbyterian church in that place. He is a Mason.

149 Mary Louise Roberts married Everett Charles Bowen 7-1-1934.

Children	Born	Died
163 Patricia Lou Bowen	11-4-1935	
164 Maralyn Kaye Bowen	11-26-1938	3-16-1939
165 Dale Everett Bowen	4-11-1940	

Mary Lou Roberts graduated from Reinbeck High School and from Gates Business College in Waterloo, Iowa. She did secretarial work until her marriage. She lives in Morrison, Iowa, and is active in community and church work.

151 Ruth Elaine Roberts married Russell Earl Kray 5-2-1947.

Children	Born	Died
166 Janet Elaine Kray	10-9-1948	

Ruth Roberts, twin sister of Russell Roberts, a senior student in Iowa State Teacher's College at Cedar Falls, gave up her plans for graduation to help care for her father who was in failing health. She taught in the rural schools in Grundy county and in Shellsburg, Iowa. She is active in 4-H work and in her church.

152 Russell Roberts married Lavon Strobehn 11-26-1938.

Children	Born	Died
167 Michael Eugene Roberts	6-3-1940	
168 Rebeca Jane Roberts	10-5-1941	
169 Phillip Anthony Roberts	12-11-1942	
170 Steven Ross Roberts	11-24-1943	
171 Christopher Jay Roberts	7-18-1948	
172 Melinda Jean Roberts	6-24-1950	

Russell Roberts graduated from Reinbeck High School and attended Coe College at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He did outstanding work in athletics during his school years, starring as a football player. He is a farmer and cattle feeder. He is a K. T. Shriner.

139 Edna Jean McWhirter married (1st) Ferd Bevons 1907.

Children	Born
173 Fred H. Bevons	6-16-1908
174 Gerald Wilson Bevons	9-23-1909

Edna J. Bevons married (2nd) Lou Woodward 1919.

Children	Born
175 Beryl Jean Woodward	11-20-1923

Jean McWhirter had in her youth, a gaiety of spirit that was very contagious. She played the guitar and sang to appreciative listeners. She was fond of her mother's tales of pioneer days and could embellish them in their revival.

Jean taught in the rural schools near Reinbeck before going to live in South Dakota. She taught a number of years in South Dakota. She died early in life, following a lingering illness.

173 Fred H. Bevans married Marie Ford 4-11-30.

Children	Born	Died
176 Kenneth James Bevans	1-9-1935	
177 Vana Jean Bevans	5-8-1940	

Fred Bevons lives in Belle Fourche, So. Dak. Following his graduation from high school he entered the Postal Service and has remained in that work through the years. His hobby is sports. He is a Mason.

174 Gerald Wilson Bevons married Aileen Jackson 1931.

Children	Born	Died
178 Sue Bevans	7-20-1935	
179 James Bevans	9-9-1936	

"Gerry" is a University graduate and lives in Klamath Falls, Ore. He is coach of the freshman class and teacher of speech and math. in Klamath Falls University.

175 Beryl Jean Woodward married Clayton Coull 1940.

Children	Born	Died
180 Patty Jean Coull	1-20-1941	
181 Dennis Coull	9-19-1942	
182 Mary Ann Coull	10-8-1946	

Beryl Jean Coull lives in Pierre, South Dakota.

141 Flora Gladys McWhirter married Errol Freeman 4-16-1912.

Children	Born	Died
183 Donald Wilson Freeman	3-21-1914	
184 Marjorie Janette Freeman	10-20-1918	

"Gladys" attended school in Reinbeck and in Traer before joining the family in

South Dakota. Having a zest for life she proved up on a quarter section homestead. This was sold and the proceeds reinvested. She is a zealous club woman and church worker.

183 Donald W. Freeman married Evelyn Eicker 11-28-1936.

Children	Born	Died
185 Helen Jean Freeman	8-21-1937	
186 Mary Jane Freeman	9-8-1942	
187 Nancy Lee Freeman	9-9-1945	

Donald Freeman is a government engineer in charge of parts for communications located at Lexington, Kentucky. He is an accomplished pianist. His hobby is photography.

184 Marjorie J. Freeman married (1st) Theodore Martz

Children	Born	Died
188 David Louis Martz	6-1-1937	

Marjorie Freeman married (2nd) Russell Dean 11-11-1945.

Children	Born	Died
189 Neal Freeman Dean	8-5-1946	
190 James Jeffry Dean	6-3-1949	

Marjorie Freeman lives in Kansas. She is an accomplished pianist.

142 Florence Gladine McWhirter, twin sister of Gladys McWhirter, attended school in Reinbeck and in Traer before joining her parents at Vivien, South Dakota. She taught in the rural schools in South Dakota for a time. She has been for a number of years. teacher of mathematics in the Belle Fourche, High School. Gladine makes her home with her nephew, Fred Bevans. She and her sister Gladys have traveled by motor over much of the West.

143 David Wilson McWhirter married 1922.

Children	Born	Died
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191 David Wilson McWhirter Jr.	11-19-1923	
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192 Maralyn McWhirter	7-25-1926	
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Wilson McWhirter lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

191 David Wilson Mc Whirter Jr., married Ethel J. Schey 4-15-1950.

David W. McWhirter was an Army Air Force pilot in World War II.

ALLEN RAMSAY WILSON

14 Allan Ramsay Wilson married Emma L. Green 12-17-1890

Children	Born	Died
193 Jarvis Allan Wilson	10-3-1891	
194 Frederick Hosmer Wilson	6-26-1893	
195 Jean Fayette Wilson	2-24-1896	
196 Agnes Ramsay Wilson	12-3-1898	
197 David West Wilson	2-3-1902	

(From files of the Traer Star-Clipper)

Allan Ramsay Wilson was born on the old Wilson farm, three miles southwest of the present site of Traer, the youngest of a family of fourteen children, seven sons and seven daughters. He was a son of one of North Tama County's most honorable pioneer couples, Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson, who came here among the first.

He grew to manhood on the farm but came to Traer when a young man to engage in stock buying, which he followed until his last illness.

Mr. Wilson was a familiar figure on the streets of Traer for a quarter of a century and was widely known as a generous and courteous friend. If he had enemies they must have held him in such respect as not to make it known. Allan was a quiet well meaning honorable man, strictly honest in his dealings and in his beliefs. The patience and quiet fortitude with which he endured his long illness and pain was something remarkable. The afflicted family while losing a dear husband and father, have a precious memory that years will not efface.

Funeral services were conducted in the Ripley Congregational Church by Rev. F. C. Gonzales. The church was crowded. Graveside burial

service was attended by more than fifty Masonic brothers.

(From Mrs. Currens family scrapbook, written by E.E. Taylor)

A. R. Wilson was the best feeder buyer that Traer has ever had. Here is what he could do: go to Omaha, bring two or three loads of feeders home, give you the privilege to go into the bunch and hide one steer, then he would go in and in a short time could describe the steer. He knew his cattle.

193 Jarvis Allan Wilson married Nellie Tomlinson 1-18-1922.

Children	Born	Died
198 Emma Jean Wilson	1-27-1923	
199 Joseph West Wilson	3-25-1924	8-19-1930
200 Louise Isobel Wilson	2-18-1927	
201 Allan Ramsay Wilson	1-8-1929	
202 Nellie May Wilson	1-31-1936	

Jarvis Wilson, familiarly called "Jay", attended Traer High School. He belongs to the Hesperia Lodge of Traer A. F. & A. M. and to the Consistory of Cedar Rapids.

Jay enlisted in World War I April 5, 1918 at Toledo, Iowa, and was sent to Bane's Auto School at Kansas City, Mo., Camp Jackson, S. C., and Camp Merrit, N. J. He went to France 8-23-1918 in the 18th Training Battalion, Battery C. F. A. R. D. He was a member of B. F. 121st Field Artillery, 57th Brigade, 52nd Division which participated in many battles including Verdun, Juniqny, Plateau Alsace, Muese Argonne, Soissons, Kreimnlle, Stelling La Darne, and Marie and Vesle. The 52nd Division received many citations, the 57th Brigade was mentioned for bravery in

action. He was discharged 5-9-1919.

Jay plays the violin "by ear" and makes a good endman in a minstrel show.

He lives on his farm west of Traer and raises Aberdeen Angus cattle.

198 Emma Jean Wilson married Robert W. Altenheim 7-18-1942.

Children	Born	Died
203 Gary Daryl Altenheim	11-9-1945	
204 Pamela Sue Altenheim	3-25-1949	
205 Penne Michele Altenheim	7-17-1950	

Emma Jean Wilson was educated at the Dinsdale, Iowa, High School and Gates Business College, Waterloo. Her home is in Marion, Iowa, where her husband is in business.

200 Louise Isabelle Wilson married Norman E. Duquette 7-11-1947.

Children	Born	Died
206 Jay Clifford Duquette	10-20-1948	
207 Jan Louise Duquette	3-23-1950	
208 Jo Nell Duquette	4-22-1952	

Isabel Wilson graduated from the Dinsdale, Iowa, High School and for one year attended the University of Iowa Nurse's Training School.

Isabel's home was in New York state until her husband, a reserve officer in the Navy Air Force, was called to duty at the outbreak of the Korean war. She, with her children, came to live with her parents west of Traer while Lt. Duquette was taking special training as a jet pilot. In January 1952, he was on his 86th mission over Korea when he was reported "missing in action."

201 Allan R. Wilson married Gloria Danker 11-26-1949.

Allan graduated from Traer High School and attended the State University at Iowa City. He was employed at Boettcher's Furniture Store in Traer until his enlistment in the Navy. He is located at Olathe, Kansas where he is Control Towerman in training.

202 Nellie Mae Wilson is a senior in the Dinsdale, Iowa, High School.

194 Frederick Hosmer Wilson married Harriet Adams 6-30-1914.

Children	Born	Died
209 Phyllis Evelyn Wilson	9-20-1923	
210 Shirley Fayette Wilson	12-29-1924	

Fred's home was in Traer during his boyhood and his vacation months were spent on his Aunt Emma Wilson's farm where he had an interest in everything that happened.

When school days were over he started on his own account on a part of his mother's acres. Energetic and industrious, he has been successful and has found time to buy and sell stock as a side line. Approachable and jovial, Fred can, upon occasion, be the life of the party. He is now retired and lives in Traer.

209 Phyllis Evelyn Wilson married Gerald J. Norby 4-29-1944.

Children	Born	Died
211 Joel Frederick Norby	2-23-1948	
212 Phyllis Suzette Norby	4-6-1949	

210 Shirley Fayette Wilson married Richard Ellis Stavely 12-17-1943.

Children	Born	Died
213 Kathryn Jo-Ann Stavely	1-20-1946	
214 Pat Elizabeth Stavely	3-25-1949	

Phyllis and Shirley Wilson have been singing ever since they could talk. Their mother was their first teacher and accompanist and soon they were doing their bit in public. In due time they appeared in a song and dance act at the annual Wilson picnic dressed in tartan plaid kilts and Glengarry caps. They are favorite entertainers with the clan. Each has a voice of lyric quality and together their voices produce a pleasing harmony. School days were spent together and both attended Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls.

Phyllis taught in Soldier, Iowa, and was on the staff of the Traer school for a time. She has been one of the younger members to serve as president at the annual reunion. She lives on a farm northeast of Traer.

Shirley lives on a farm northwest of Traer.

Both are active in community work.

195 Jean Fayette Wilson married Ralph Leslie Chambers 4-25-1924.

Children	Born	Died
215 Veronica Rose Chambers	7-27-1928	
216 Barbara Jean Chambers	9-6-1934	

Jean F. Wilson graduated from Traer High School, attended the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts from 1916-1918, and Iowa State Teachers College from 1919-1921. She is gifted in music and art, and is busy teaching piano and doing illustrating and commercial drawing. She is a unique artist, using the black and white medium. Jean illustrated the book Hi, Neighbor! written by Theodosia and Allan Carpenter, and "Her's was the priceless faculty of transforming a few lines into eager and vital life."

Jean is a Past Matron of the O. E. S. and is active in church and

community life. Her hobby is photography.

The family lives in Clear Lake, South Dakota.

215 Roni Chambers is a graduate of Clear Lake High School and of the University of South Dakota at Vermillion, South Dakota. Following her graduation she taught for a year at Pueblo, Colorado, she will teach in New Mexico for the coming year. Roni is gifted in dramatic characterizations and is an accomplished pianist.

216 Barbara Jean Chambers graduated from Clear Lake High School in June 1952. She was a cheer leader. Barbara is an accomplished pianist. She will enter college at Brookings, South Dakota.

196 Agnes Ramsey Wilson married Wesley Evers Bovey 12-28-1921.

Children	Born	Died
217 Alan Evers Bovey	11-3-1923	
218 Agnes Elizabeth Bovey	11-8-1924	
219 Homer Frederick Bovey	5-29-1926	

Agnes R. Wilson graduated from Traer High School, attended Cedar Rapids Business College, Iowa State Teacher's College and taught school for a year.

Following her marriage, the family lived in Akron, Ohio, for a number of years, returning to Iowa to make their home on their farm northeast of Traer.

Agnes is a member of the P. E. O. Sisterhood and was its president for two years. She is a member of the Alpha Study Club and of the Garden Club of Traer. She is a Past Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star. She is active in church and community work and is gifted in song.

217 Allan Evers Bovey married Avalée Shipman 1-9-1949

Allan was educated in the Firestone Park, Akron, Ohio schools, is a graduate from Traer High School, attended Iowa State College at Ames and the State University of Iowa at Iowa City, majoring in English. He is a member of Hesperia Lodge #340 A. F. and A. M.

He was inducted into the Navy 6-3-1943. He received training at U. S. N. T. S., Farragut, Idaho; N. T. S. Texas A. & M., College Station, Texas; Amphibious Training Base, Little Creek, Va.; Waipo Training Center, Pearl Harbor, Hawaiian Islands.

Southwest and South Pacific theatre of operations on board USS LSM 8. Engagements included reinforcement action at Bougainville, Solomon Islands; Invasion of Luzon, Phillipine Is.; landing of first ground troops on Japanese mainland.

Rated A/S, S2/c S1/c RM 3/c RM2/c

Landed in U. S. A. February 22, 1946 at San Francisco, Cal.

Discharged March 2, 1946 from PerSepCen, Minneapolis, Minn.

Served thirteen months in U. S. and nineteen months overseas.

As a Naval Reservist he, while a student at Iowa University, was again inducted into the Navy at Great Lakes, Illinois, in January 1951. He was stationed at Newport, R. I., where he served as radioman on maneuvers on a destroyer escort. Allan has now been discharged from the Navy and is again a student at the University of Iowa at Iowa City. He is a naval reservist.

218 Agnes Elizabeth Bovey married Emerson Delph 11-10-1951.

Agnes entered school at Firestone Park School, Akron, Ohio, and later transferred to and graduated from Traer High School. She is a graduate from Gates

Business College in Waterloo.

While in school Agnes participated in music activities, especially vocal music. Having a soprano voice of wide range her solo work was particularly effective. Before her marriage she lived in New York City, where she continued voice culture while doing secretarial work for "Lindeteves", Dutch Exporters.

At present Agnes is with her husband in Pasadena, Cal., where as an instructor in the army, Mr. Delph is taking special training in radar and microware.

219 Homer Frederick Bovey married Marjorie Earley 12-29-1951.

Fred Bovey received his elementary education in Firestone Park School, Akron, Ohio, and graduated from Traer High School in 1947.

He was inducted into U. S. Navy 9-28-1944. Trained at U. S. N. T. S. Farragut, Idaho, and Port Hueneme, Cal. Served in South Pacific with 146th Naval Construction Battalion (Sea Bees). Embarked May 30, 1945 from Port Hueneme for Okinawa, Ryuku Islands. Went aboard U. S. S. Jason ARH 1 and was rated M 3/c. Sailed from China October 1946 and landed in the States at San Francisco, Cal. Discharged December, 1946, U. S. Naval Air Station, Alameda, California.

Served eighteen months overseas and eight months in the states.

Rated A/S S2/c S1/c M3/c

He is a naval reservist.

Fred is now employed at the Funk's G. Hybrid Corn Co. He is a member of Hesperia Lodge #340 A. F. & A. M.

197 David West Wilson married Rachel Logan 10-25-1925.

Children	Born	Died
220 Logan West Wilson	6-12-1927	

David W. Wilson graduated from the Traer High School and attended the Military Academy at Morgan Park, Ill. He is employed at the Boettcher Furniture Store in Traer, Iowa.

David, like his father, loves a fine horse, a saddle horse in particular, and has belonged to a riding club.

220 Logan West Wilson married Elaine Johnston 12- - 1946

Children	Born	Died
221 David West Wilson II	11-24-1947	
222 Jeffrey Royal Wilson	5-5-1949	
223 Lynn Louise Wilson	11-21-1950	
224 Sue Elizabeth Wilson	6-1-1952	

Logan West Wilson graduated from the Traer High School in 1944 and was inducted into the Army Sept. 27, 1944, Ft. Snelling, Minn. Basic training at Camp Wolters, Texas. On Feb. 17, 1945, embarked on the S. S. General H. W. Butner in a 100 ship convoy to Leyte Gulf, P. I. Disembarked at Tacloban, Leyte, P. I., March 17, 1945. Assigned to 41st Infantry Division. Served at Zamboanga, Phillipines until Sept. 18, 1945, then to Kure, Japan where he re-enlisted. Home for 60 day furlough. Remainder of enlistment at Camp Hood, Texas, in an armoured division.

Discharged November 26, 1946.

Logan is employed by the Equitable Life Insurance Co.

Logan owns a saddle horse and finds great pleasure in riding.

TRANQUILLITY CHURCH

Excerpts from an article written by
Mrs. Ella C. Taylor for the
Golden Anniversary Souvenir Edition
of the Traer Star-Clipper
May 18, 1928

Tranquillity Church is located four and one-half miles from Traer and was built in the summer of 1869. It stands today as it did then and has nearly the same number of worshippers. It was built on two acres of land belonging to the Gilbert McDowell, Sr. farm and donated by him for that purpose. The cost is variously estimated from \$1,200 to \$2,500. A Waterloo firm built it and the lumber was hauled from that point. In 1889, a commodious parsonage was erected for the use of the pastor.

This church was organized in 1856, with eighteen members, at the John Wilson home; this continued to be the meeting place until the school house was built, which was used for services until the erection of the church building. The early records of the church are missing, but it is known that John Wilson served continuously as ruling elder from its organization until death in 1892. In the early days the members came long distances to worship. During the winter months the drifting snows and severe cold made it necessary to abandon the services occasionally but, with the sturdiness which characterized our early settlers, they came with surprising regularity, suffering discomforts that the present generation cannot conceive of so to do.

When the territory became more thickly settled, other churches were established nearer the settlers' homes. With the birth of Traer, in 1875, forty members withdrew and organized a church in town. In 1879, they suffered another loss when Twenty-three members were given letters of dismissal to form the Amity church in Grant Township. About thirty-five of the younger generation are living at the

present time at Goldfield, Iowa, and attending the Presbyterian church there, taking letters from Tranquillity. Thus the members have gone out to spread their influence in other fields and new ones have come in to take their places. One cannot fail to be impressed with the idea that this church stands as a living monument past, present, and future, to John Wilson's service to his God and to the community, to say nothing of those who served so faithfully with him or of the others who continue to "carry on." It is a historic spot and should be nurtured by future generations in memory of those "who builded better than they knew."

Although Tranquillity was at one time the center of a large and flourishing farm community, the parish finds itself much reduced these late years for the children and grandchildren have gone out to other fields, some to high positions. The farms have been bought by men of German and Bohemian ancestry who favor other religions than Presbyterianism. Automobiles and paved roads make it easy to attend town churches and many speakers and writers are predicting the downfall of rural churches under these conditions. This is not indicated in the rural churches of Tama County, who are maintaining their old standards of excellence in spite of changed environment. Tranquillity saw the danger and took steps to meet it. In 1925 the members decided to repair and remodel the old structure and raised \$4,125 for the work. A full basement with kitchen, dining room, etc., for social gatherings was constructed and electric lighting plant installed and new furnishings purchased. The auditorium was left as it was originally built, but redecorated and repainted. At the dedication services former members and friends flocked back. The program, covering four days, was a notable event in every respect.

The ancestry of these sturdy pioneers will not let it perish.

A TRIBUTE BY AGNESS LAW

Given at the Annual Praise Service in
Tranquillity Church in 1925

No normal person can pass up the Wolf Creek Valley, if only from Traer to this church, without being stirred by the natural beauty of the scene. The fertile productive fields, stretching away to the low wooded hills on the north, here and there a glint of water telling the stream's course; the wind of the prairie is on the cheek, the odor of hay or corn or wayside flowers is in the air, God's azure sky overhead, and everywhere a sense of prosperity, safety, and peace.

Of course the speeder scorching along the gravel road in his high-power car may see nothing of this; he sees only the flying miles and the speedometer's moving finger.

The thoughtful one, the imaginative, looking into the past sees miles of rolling prairie, its grass like the waves of the ocean in movement, a flight of birds through the deeps of the sky, down by the creek, the blue of wood smoke from camping Indians hunting and fishing down the stream. From the distance comes the lone cry of the prairie wolf. Too, he can see ox teams like specks, leaving furrows of good black earth across the unbroken prairie; the log cabin clinging to the creek valley secure in needful wood and water. Later the rude school house, the flag pole, and Church: Education, Patriotism, and Religion, these were the strong elements in the Scottish American settlement which lay all about Tranquillity Church, before its building, when it was built and for many years after.

The John Wilson home was among the first in the valley and it was always the center of the settlement. Mr. Wilson was the acknowledged leader in all church matters, providing preaching, entertaining the ministers, taking them about the wide and scattered parish, seeing that they were paid (or paying them), conveying them to the nearest railroad; all the while observant as to their orthodoxy, their knowledge

of the Bible and catechism, their consecration, and their general suitability to this church.

In all he was supported by the McDowalls; Mr. McDowall giving the beautiful site on which the church stands, the McCosh's whose home a fountain of generous hospitality, stood across the road in the clump of trees still standing, the Dodds, McMillans, Whannels, McCormacks, Lawsons, Sloss's, Stevensons, and many others -- whole families.

My memory goes far back, holding fragmentary things as small children do, even before the building of the church when the congregation met and worshipped in the school house which stood near Frank Stark's handsome farm house. As a little child holding my mother's hand, I recall the stimulating and impressive sight as we approached at church time, one of the very few families coming from the east, the impressive sight of the procession from the west coming over the then steep long hill beyond the school house, close following wagon after wagon, here and there a spring wagon and more rarely a top buggy; it looked as if the community was in line for church and it was.

Mr. Bull (J. L.) was the preacher, and to a little child the sermon was both long and tiresome, and so I amused myself by observing everything within my range of vision. To this day I recall how the various colored ribbons were twisted on the bonnets of the McCormack sisters, Mrs. Wm. McDowall, mother of Mrs. Ed Stark and Mrs. Thomas Whannel, Andrew Whannel's mother, or the diversion when, for the late comers, spring seats had to be brought in from the wagons and placed for pews on the school house floor, and if in cold weather fresh fuel added to the already roaring fire.

I can remember when on Sunday morning the weather was threatening, the necessary indecision about starting on the five mile roadless journey, usually settled by my

father coming in and saying, "Well, get ready. I see the Lawson's coming." The Lawsons lived two or three miles south of us and Mrs. Peter Wilson is the youngest of that family.

I can still feel the old terror, when in a wet season the horses mired in crossing a slough, my father standing up urging and guiding, the mud splashing over the horses backs as they struggled through to dry ground.

I remember the work, the sacrifice, to build this church here; the hauling of material from distant railroad towns with my father spending the night more than once at the grand A. W. McCormack home and both starting at 3 A. M. to haul rock from Waterloo over bad roads.

Friends, it is good to pause and look back over the road travelled and dwell once again on the lives of the travellers, many of whom are now a part of the great Church Triumphant. It was a priceless heritage, dying, they left to their children's children and to the community; and its influence shall endure. These simple, intelligent, upright honest, kindly men and women were not afraid of hard work. They did not shirk from heat nor cold, from pain nor weariness. They did not look for ease, a pleasant time, nor for something for nothing. They believed in hard things as honesty, duty, labor, unselfishness. They practiced the Christian graces of hospitality, sympathy, kindness, generosity, and frugality and the fruit of the spirit was theirs; love, joy, peace!



